

STARS AND STRIPES®

Oakland joins Anaheim atop AL West

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Oakland's Eric Chavez tags Seattle's Raul Ibanez



U.S., Japan on joint drill in Hiroshima

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Cat to Yusuf: One singer's spiritual path

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Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2004

PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD; ILLUSTRATION: JIM SCHULZ; PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD; PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD

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'6,000-mile screwdriver' fine-tuned Iraq war

Dempsey: Field commanders peppered with politicians' questions

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JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Above: Dorene Brown greets her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Brown, after he arrives with the USS Fitzgerald at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Thursday. The ship replaced the USS O'Brien and is one of several Aegis-equipped missile destroyers that will be deployed in the Sea of Japan. Right: Sailors aboard the USS Fitzgerald wait to secure from "man the rails."



USS Fitzgerald arrives at new home port

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Scene on Sunday

Katie Holmes is
'First Daughter'

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Kyoto Protocol: The Russian Cabinet on Thursday approved the Kyoto Protocol in a crucial step that could bring the long-delayed climate change treaty into effect within months.

But many Russian officials remain opposed to the treaty and Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, on a trip to the Netherlands, said he expected "difficult debate" when parliament meets — possibly before the end of the year — to decide on final approval.

Without Russia's support, the pact — which has been rejected by the United States and China — cannot come into effect.

Russian company's problems: Russia's Natural Resources Ministry on Thursday postponed a discussion on revoking subsoil licenses belonging to the embattled Yukos oil giant's core subsidiary, while officials confirmed a suspension in the company's rail deliveries to China.

Pulling the licenses of Yuganskneftegaz could slash the value of the unit, which is being evaluated for sale against Yukos' \$7.5 billion. The Tax Ministry had earlier filed a complaint with the Natural Resources Ministry saying that Yuganskneftegaz — which pumps 60 percent of Yukos' oil — had failed to make tax payments.

Church sexual abuse: An influential Roman Catholic lay organization expressed relief Thursday at the resignation of a bishop who oversaw an Austrian seminary where authorities found child pornography, calling it an "important first step" in rebuilding trust in Austria's scandalized church.

We Are the Church, which claims to have 500,000 members and has condemned priest pedophilia and other scandals that have rocked the country's religious establishment in the past decade, had pressed for Bishop Kurt Krenn to step down or be fired.

States

Fla. right-to-die case: The lead attorney for the parents of a woman at the center of a right-to-die dispute has withdrawn from the case, just days before the parents were expected to seek a new trial.

A judge signed an order Tuesday allowing Pat Anderson to quit after more than three years representing Bob and Mary Schindler, Terri Schiavo's parents. Anderson is being replaced by David Gibbs, who has also worked on the case.

"I am reclaiming my life," Anderson said Wednesday. "It's just time to leave. I've done



War crimes tribunal: Serbia-Montenegro's Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic, left, shakes hands with U.S. Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman, center, as U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes Pierre-Richard Prosper looks on in Belgrade, Thursday. Prosper and Grossman met officials in Belgrade to warn authorities that time is running out for the handover of suspects to the U.N. war crimes tribunal. They urged Serbia-Montenegro's leaders to arrest and extradite war crimes suspects to the U.N. tribunal, saying the country faces further international isolation if the demands are not met.

my part showing that rock up the hill. Maybe I'll be able to finally sleep through the night without waking up at 3 a.m. remembering some detail.

Philadelphia corruption case: A federal grand jury investigating alleged city corruption indicted seven people Wednesday, including an imam with connections to leading politicians and an aide to the mayor's chief of staff.

Prosecutors allege Shamsud-din Ali, a leader of an influential Philadelphia mosque, used his political friendships to extort money from city vendors and paid a kickback to obtain a city contract for which he did no work. Others were charged for their alleged involvement in the schemes, which prosecutors say amounted to a racketeering enterprise.

Gambino crime family: Eighteen people, including the alleged No. 2 man in the Gambino crime family, were indicted Wednesday following an investigation into organized crime in Connecticut, Rhode Island and suburban New York.

Anthony "The Genius" Megale, a Stamford member in Connecticut, was arraigned on a 46-count federal indictment charging him with racketeering, extortion and illegal gambling.

Robert Blake case: Actor Robert Blake's lawyer claims newly discovered evidence points to a conspiracy among friends of Christian Brando to murder Blake's wife, who taunted Brando with a picture of the baby he thought was his but turned out to be Blake's.

Attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach filed a voluminous motion Wednesday seeking to present evidence at Blake's upcoming murder trial showing that other people, including one of the prosecution's star witnesses, conspired to kill Bonnie Lee Bakley.

The motion outlines a complex series of relationships among Brando, the son of the late actor Marlon Brando, two former stuntmen and two transients. One of the stuntmen, Jerry Lee Petty, and one of the homeless men later committed suicide, the motion said.

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"Screwdriver" tweaked Iraq war from afar

Dempsey: Commanders often fielded questions from political leaders

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Senior tactical commanders fresh from the war in Iraq say they were routinely taking questions directly from top political leaders — from the president to foreign ministers of defense — on the day-to-day conduct of the war.

"There is this thing we call the 6,000-mile screwdriver, where they will fine-tune operations from 6,000 miles away. It exists," Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey told a gathering of mostly senior officers and enlisted soldiers during his keynote address during the Land Combat Expo on Wednesday afternoon.

Dempsey is commander of the Germany-based 1st Armored Division, which just returned from Iraq after 15 months in combat, the longest combat deployment for an entire division since World War II.

While Dempsey said he was rarely peppered with questions and visits from congressional leaders and top Pentagon officials during his tour, his boss, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, "did a marvelous job of shielding me" from too much distraction from the front.

Asked about the amount of pressure exerted from inside the Washington Beltway, Dempsey said, "I didn't feel too much. But if you ask Gen. Sanchez that question I think you'll get a far different answer."

Sanchez hinted at those pressures during own presentation Thursday.

"We were interfacing with the [National Security Council] and the president on an almost weekly basis, two [to] three times a month, with advice pertinent to the theater of operation," said Sanchez.

By calling Sanchez, President Bush and his staff regularly jumped at least three rungs of the chain of command — the secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the head of the U.S. Central Command — with guidance for the war.

Sanchez, now based in Germany and still the commander of V Corps, declined to be interviewed and avoided any direct allegation of actual interference from political leaders.

Dempsey was less shy. "The theme of which is, that war is too important to be left to the generals. That in a democracy the political leader, in this case the president, needs to take an active role in the conduct of the war," said Dempsey. "I don't know if I agree with that or not."

Dempsey said there has been long-standing concern that technology would come to a point where leaders could micromanage even individual soldiers on the battlefield.



Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey

"That was always the fear when I was a young officer, that some day someone was going to have so much information that they'd be telling you which way to turn and how to fight," said Dempsey.

"I haven't seen that, honestly," he said, but added quickly, "I think the kind of interference that does exist, and the kind that Gen. Sanchez experienced, is this idea of momentum."

Dempsey said it was difficult but possible to take stock of his units' progress as the insurgency dragged on in Iraq.

"That's the kind of measuring you can do at the tactical level that you can't do at the strategic level. The frustration in Washington, I think, is the enduring question, 'Are we winning?' That's a hard question to answer," said Dempsey.

"The answer is yes, by the way. But you can't quantify it right now."

Telling indicators, he said, was the successful return of sovereignty this summer and the upcoming elections.

"Those are measures of we-are-winning," said Dempsey, "but they're balanced in the negative with press reports of car bombings going off in Baghdad. So the frustration in Washington is how do we measure whether or not we're winning. I had a difficult time doing that myself."

Meanwhile, Dempsey told Stars and Stripes, Sanchez was often busy taking "phone calls from the chiefs of defense from the 34 like-minded nations, I guess we call them. And then, of course, he'd have the issue of defining momentum. Which frankly is a fascinating question that persists even today."

"I felt like in Baghdad and subsequently in the southern part of Iraq that we had momentum. I don't know that question is answered at the national level," Dempsey said.

"But Gen. Sanchez was clearly in the position of having that question asked of him and asked of him by any number of organizations — military and civilian."

Charlie Coon in Heidelberg contributed to this story.

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RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace, former V Corps commander, says he didn't recognize quickly enough when the power shifted away from Saddam Hussein during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wallace spoke Wednesday at the Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

Wallace: Iraq moves were slow

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The U.S. military overwhelmed Saddam Hussein's forces on the way to Baghdad in spring 2003. But the man who led the ground invasion told soldiers Wednesday that he wished he had done a better job directing his units as the war shifted from conventional to street warfare.

Army Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace, the former commander of V Corps, also said he wished he had recognized more quickly when the power in Iraq shifted from Saddam's regime to the Iraqi people.

"There was a point when the regime was no longer relevant, no longer pulling the strings and running the country," Wallace said Wednesday at the Land Combat Expo 2004, which runs through Thursday.

"In retrospect, we were slow to pick up on that. We missed an opportunity for the Iraqi people to become part of the solution instead of standing on the sidelines waiting to see how things turned out."

The inability to co-opt the Iraqi people in a timely manner as the tide turned was one of the lessons Wallace said he learned while deploying and commanding V Corps at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When asked if the military did not have a plan, or a good enough plan, to "win the peace," Wallace replied that the plan was based on faulty assumptions on what would happen once the U.S.-led coalition captured Baghdad.

The Iraqi people were expected to cooperate more than they did, Wallace said. Public services such as electric, water and services were expected to be in better shape, as were the institutions that operated them.

"I did not have an appreciation of how intrinsically [Saddam's] Baath Party was woven into the society," Wallace said.

Wallace, who now is commanding general of the U.S. Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., said that in future wars, "totalitarian regime changes and what follows has to be part of the planning up front."

The war in Iraq, now 1½-years-old, has taught the U.S. military many lessons on the fly, Wallace said.

Among them:

- The ability to fight an enemy that doesn't fight fair, such as by blending in with civilians and using human shields, and hiding personnel and military assets within sensitive sites such as mosques, hospitals and schools, and using public communications to coordinate operations.

- The need to focus training on combat in a downtown environment such as Baghdad.

"How does a battalion or brigade operate in an urban environment?" he asked.

- Rethink the time spent on teaching gunnery skills. "We haven't run into a tank lately, at least not one with anybody on board," Wallace said.

- Improve coordination and timing between the fighters and their suppliers. "It took 3rd Infantry Division 20 days to get repair parts once it got to Baghdad," Wallace said.

In future engagements "we're going to be fighting and flowing at the same time," Wallace said. "Someone has to be in charge of the fighting, and someone has to be in charge of the flowing, but eventually they have to come together."

Wallace praised the adaptability of soldiers who have been serving downrange. Their ability to go from tankers to foot soldiers and back again, for example, has shown the need for military units to be more flexible.

"Non-standard organizations specifically designed for the task at hand will be more frequent by then in the future than in the past," Wallace said.

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.stripsides.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Above: Petty Officer 2nd Class John Greenfield greets his son, Sean, who was born two weeks before he deployed to San Diego for a crew swap that put him on the USS Fitzgerald. Left: Sailors from the USS John S. McCain wait Thursday to moor new arrival USS Fitzgerald to Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

Fitzgerald gets change of scenery, crew

Guided missile destroyer replaces now-decommissioned USS O'Brien at Yokosuka

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

The USS Fitzgerald pulled into Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Thursday, bringing with it an upgrade to the 7th Fleet's capabilities — and a truly motley crew.

The Aegis-equipped guided missile destroyer replaces the USS O'Brien, a now-decommissioned destroyer built in 1977. Some 40 percent of the Fitzgerald crew formerly was on the O'Brien.

The unprecedented crew swap — the first time ever the U.S. Navy has replaced a portion of the crew from one class of ship with that of another — provides two benefits, said officials at Thursday's homecoming. One is to provide "institutional knowledge of the forward-deployed naval forces" for the Fitzgerald crew and officers who were formerly stationed in San Diego. The other, according to Cmdr. Brad Smith, Fitzgerald skipper, was that it "allowed some of the folks who wanted to stay in Japan to stay there."

The Fitzgerald, among its other duties and after work on its systems to be done at Yokosuka, will be part of the 7th Fleet's complement of ships equipped for a new mission: to patrol the Sea of Japan to detect and track any medium- or long-range missiles fired from North Korea.

The ships tasked with the mission patrols — the first of their kind ever undertaken — also include the USS Curtis Wilbur and the USS John S. McCain, according to the Missile Defense Agency, part of the Defense Department. The mission was to begin by Friday, although officials declined to say

which ship would be tasked with the first patrol, it appeared to be the Curtis Wilbur. The Curtis Wilbur got under way on Monday, while the McCain still was in port.

The addition of the Fitzgerald is one of several changes the 7th Fleet is expecting this year. Rear Adm. James Kelly, commander of Carrier Strike Group 5, said two fleet cruisers likely would be decommissioned later this year: the USS Cushing and the USS Vincennes, which became infamous for its accidental shooting and downing of an Iranian airliner in 1988.

Kelly declined to say what ships were expected to replace the Cushing and the Vincennes. However, the Missile Defense Agency says that within the next two years, 15 destroyers and three cruisers will be equipped for the long-range surveillance and tracking missions — as well as the other missions they always have done.

"The good thing about these ships," Kelly said of guided missile destroyers like the Fitzgerald, "is that they're jacks of all trades — and masters of them."

Getting the Fitzgerald, Kelly said, "is a good deal for me." It also was a good deal for Petty Officer First Class Wayne Jaffeux. He'd been on the O'Brien and said he was happier in several respects to be on the Fitzgerald. For one thing, he said, "the ship is newer, and everything works."

Jaffeux said he was happy as well to be home after five months in San Diego as the O'Brien was decommissioned. "I didn't want to leave [Japan]," he said, holding hands with his wife, Yukiko, one of a handful of former O'Brien wives on hand for the homecoming.

But several Fitzgerald wives were waiting at the pier, most of whom had been in Japan only a few weeks. Among them was Nellie Baggett, the ship navigator's



The USS Fitzgerald arrives at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. It is one of several Aegis-equipped guided missile destroyers that will be deployed in the Sea of Japan.

wife. She and her husband, Lt. j.g. John Baggett, have been married less than a year, and he was at sea much of that time.

ach," she said. "It's like starting all over. And we're finally going to live together."

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomeryn@pstrips.osd.mil

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Surface warfare officers get more options

Programs, new duties available for SWOs without ship command

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy launched a new career program Thursday aimed at retaining surface warfare officers who don't get selected to command a ship but desire to stay Navy.

With the fleet size decreasing, the Navy has limited options available for surface warfare officers to follow the traditional path of eventually commanding a ship, said Rear Adm. Michael LeFever, deputy director of Expeditionary Warfare Division.

"It allows people to have more options in their career. We knew up front that not everybody may aspire to take command of a ship, but we know there is some great talent and some great leadership skills and knowledge developed out in the fleet that we can capitalize on.

"It allows us to keep people with these critical skill sets that [are] vital not only to surface warfare, but also to the Navy," LeFever said.

In the SWO community, where command of a ship is everything, the program amounts to a huge cultural change in the Navy, he said.

"We had a system in which if you didn't

attain [command-at-sea], you didn't get promoted. It is a culture change, and I think we tend to realize there was tremendous talent out here that we were wasting, for one reason or another... Maybe their aspiration for command-at-sea of USS Vessels in the cards for them, but they would really like to specialize in an area because this is their passion.

"Because they didn't attain [sea command], we essentially didn't promote them and kind of pushed them to the wayside. I think we're realizing... this is a huge talent base with incredible experience in management and leadership skills that we can't afford to throw away."

It also gives upper echelon of officers the option of staying on shore duty without hurting their careers, he said.

SWOs taking the new career path options also are eligible for critical skills bonuses totaling a possible \$46,000 for a full

three-year re-enlistment commitment. Details of the bonuses are detailed in NAVADMIN at: www.persnet.navy.mil/navadmin /nav02/nav02326.txt.

There are about 8,000 sailors ranked in the targeted O-3 to O-6 paygrades, but those eligible to apply are SWOs who have started the second of their required two 18-month department head tours, and have completed five years of at-sea experience. To apply, they must submit a written application through both commanding officer and to PERS-41, or the Surface Warfare Officer Distribution Division.

At the end of the second department head tour, the next assignment either would be to the chosen specialty job, or to an educational post to prepare, LeFever said.

The new career paths in six existing specialty areas include:

- Antirterrorism/Force Protection
- Anti-submarine warfare
- Missile Defense
- Mine Warfare Specialist
- Shore Installation Management
- Strategic Sealtit

The shore installation management, for example, is a "huge win" for both career-bound officers and the Navy, he said. The traditional career path prep sailors to command at sea, "and then all of a sudden we send an officer... into a position of trying to run public works... a little city."

The new career path would incrementally increase such responsibilities, he said. "They would have repetitive tours and understand the business... and get smart about how to run the bases and manage enterprise of working the shore establishment."

The first selection board will convene in January to pick the first batch of SWOs opting to take the outlined specialty career path. Subsequent boards, chaired by a SWO flag officer, will convene twice a year in January and July, LeFever said.

NAVADMIN 220/04 has the detailed process to apply and a form letter template.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

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Here he comes



Yukari Vladimery, center, and her daughter, Collette, 5, and son, Lucas, 3, watch as a plane carrying Storkeeper 1st Class Gregory Vladimery approaches. Gregory Vladimery and about 90 other members of Strike Fighter Squadron 27 returned to Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, on Wednesday after four months of training at Lemoore, Calif., as part of the transition to the Super Hornet.

MATTHEW SCHWARTZ
Writer of The U.S. Navy

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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

Army, JGSDF train to protect U.S. bases

BY GREG TYLER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force conducted one of the joint training events this week in the Guard and Protect slate of exercises.

The drill, which began Tuesday, focused for three days on guarding U.S. military facilities in Hiroshima Prefecture, U.S. Army Japan spokesman Maj. John Ambreg said Thursday afternoon.

The events involved patrols and emergency response drills, a JGSDF Middle Army spokesman told Stars and Stripes.

"When we live and work together, it's beneficial to train together in this way. The Guard and Pro-

tect... these are nothing new. During these ongoing exercises, when we're working together, it reinforces the strength of our alliance," Ambreg said.

About 70 servicemembers from the JGSDF 41st Infantry Division of 13th Brigade, plus about 20 U.S. Army soldiers, participated in the exercise at Hiji Depot, Akizuki Depot and Kure, the JGSDF spokesman said. The Japanese personnel mobilized from JGSDF's 13th Brigade, based in Kaifu in Hiroshima Prefecture.

The U.S. Army's 83rd Ordnance Battalion operates from the three Hiroshima Prefecture locations, according to Ambreg.

Japan's Self-Defense Forces Law, revised after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, allows JSDF

troops to guard U.S. bases if the prime minister so orders after he consults with the Defense Agency chief and National Public Safety Commission chairman.

No such orders have been issued since the law was revised, the spokesman said.

In 2003, he said, the JSDF held similar training exercises with U.S. military involvement. In addition, similar joint exercises took place this year at Misawa in the northern mainland.

This is the first time such a joint exercise has been conducted in Japan's Middle Army, the JGSDF spokesman said. "I was told that the exercise is going well," he added.

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Children looking for candy killed by blasts

Suicide bombers strike twice in Baghdad, Arab network says 10 more hostages seized

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A string of bombs killed 35 children and wounded scores of others as U.S. troops handed out candy Thursday at a government-sponsored celebration to inaugurate a new sewage plant. It was the largest death toll of children in any insurgent attack since the Iraq conflict began.

The explosions in Baghdad's western al-Amel neighborhood — at least two of which were car bombs — came amid a series of savage attacks that killed at least 51 people and wounded 230 nationwide.

At least one U.S. soldier was among the dead and 13 were wounded.

Maj. Phil Smith, spokesman for the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, said all three blasts were caused by car bombs, the first two targeting the celebration and the third aimed at an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint about a mile away. Ten Iraqi soldiers were injured, he said.

Hours earlier, a suicide attacker detonated a vehicle packed with explosives in front of a government complex in the Abu Ghraib area, on the western outskirts of the city, killing three people and wounding more than 60.

The compound housing the mayor's office, a police station and other buildings is guarded by U.S. forces, police 1st Lt. Ahmed Jawad said.

A U.S. Bradley fighting vehicle was damaged in the attack, which killed one U.S. soldier and injured three, said Lt. Col. Jim Hutton, another spokesman for the 1st Cav.

At least two Iraqi policemen also died in the blast, Hutton said in a statement.

Also on Baghdad's outskirts, insurgents fired a rocket Thursday at a logistical support area for coalition forces, killing one soldier and wounding seven, the military said in a statement.

In the northern city of Talafar, a car bomb targeting the police chief killed at least four people and wounded 19, including five

policemen, police and hospital officials said.

In another northern city, the Kirkuk mayor's chief bodyguard, 1st Lt. Jalal Fattah Mohammed, was gunned down in his vehicle, which was then driven away by the attackers, police said.

American jets, tanks and artillery units have repeatedly targeted followers of Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's in rebel-held Fallujah in recent weeks as coalition forces seek to assert control over insurgent enclaves ahead of elections slated for January.

U.S. forces struck a suspected militant safehouse in Fallujah early Thursday.

Thursday's violence came as the Arab news network Al-Jazeera showed footage of 10 new hostages seized in Iraq by militants seen pointing guns at them. It was not immediately clear when and where they were seized.

They included six Iraqis, two Lebanese and two Indonesian women, Al-Jazeera reported.

An Indonesian Embassy official

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 1,053 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 800 died as a result of hostile action and 253 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 915 U.S. military members have died — 691 as a result of hostile action and 224 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Wednesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ None reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense: ■ Army Spc. Gregory A. Cox, 21, Carmichael, Pa.; died Monday when his military vehicle rolled over in Balad, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Airborne Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

■ Marine Pfc. Kenneth L. Sicksel, 20, Apple Valley, Calif.; died Monday in a nonhostile incident in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

cial in neighboring Jordan identified the two abducted women as Bind Anon and Rafika Binti Aminj.

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry also confirmed two of its citizens had been kidnapped. It later said one of its nationals had been freed, but it was not immediately

clear whether he was part of the same group of hostages.

Militants call themselves The Islamic Army in Iraq claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. There was no mention of any demands for their release. The group also says it is holding two French journalists seized last month.

Official: Snag in release of suspected combatant

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The planned release of a U.S. citizen captured in Afghanistan as a suspected enemy combatant has been delayed, a State Department official said Thursday, because of what the U.S. official described as a snag in negotiations with the Saudi government.



Hamdi

The U.S. official, saying he could discuss the complex, unresolved case only on grounds of anonymity, said the two sides were working to clear up what he termed the minor snag. The official said the two sides also are working on logistical details for the transfer.

The case involves Yaser Esam Hamdi, who had been scheduled to be released on Tuesday and sent to Saudi Arabia.

Hamdi, a U.S. citizen, grew up in Saudi Arabia, but has remained in detention at a U.S. Navy brig in South Carolina since shortly after his capture in Afghanistan. He also had been held in Norfolk, Va.

Hamdi's case led to a Supreme

Court decision limiting President Bush's powers to indefinitely hold — without trial or charges — so-called wartime combatants.

Under terms of an agreement with federal officials made public on Monday, Hamdi would not be charged with any crime.

The Saudi government, however, has called the deal "unenforceable" and said that Hamdi should be set free without conditions because he never broke a law.

"If he's guilty of something, we don't believe the U.S. government would let him go," Saudi Embassy spokesman Nail al-Jubeir told CNN in a phone interview on Wednesday. "It is an issue of fairness."

In a later interview with The Associated Press on Thursday, al-Jubeir said, "There are no charges against him that we are aware of." He added: "We don't believe the United States would release someone" if there were charges against him.

According to the agreement, the United States would transport Hamdi in civilian clothes to Saudi Arabia no later than Thursday.

Also, Hamdi would not be allowed to leave Saudi Arabia for five years and would not be able to return to the United States for 10 years.

He also must renounce his U.S. citizenship and not participate in any terrorist activity, the agreement stated.

Donna Abu-Nasr of The Associated Press contributed to this report from Beirut, Lebanon.

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IN THE WORLD

Expert: Philippine terror camps active

BY JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Top leaders of an al-Qaida-linked group accused in Asia's worst terror attacks once taught or were trained at secret Philippine camps — which are still active despite government claims they've been dismantled — a U.S. security analyst said Thursday.

The camps still produce would-be attackers, allowing Jemaah Islamiyah to survive arrests and crackdowns, said American terror expert Prof. Zachary Abuza, director of Asian Studies at Simmons College in Boston, Mass.

Most of the camps are in remote southern strongholds of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has repeatedly denied any Jemaah Islamiyah links and pledged to help authorities hunt down foreign terrorists, according to Abuza.

The Philippines government acknowledges that suspected foreign militants used to train in southern camps, but maintains that troops have dismantled them.

But the United States, Australia and other nations have been alarmed by reports of the camps' continuing presence in the largely undeveloped south, where the MILF and other Muslim groups have waged a decades-old independence fight.

"There, unfortunately, have been people who'd come out of these camps who have been involved in either attacks or in key leadership position in the J organization," Abuza told Associated Press Television News.

Alleged trainers included Malaysian bomb expert and key Jemaah Islamiyah figure Azahari bin Husin — a main suspect in the Australian Embassy bombing that killed nine people in Indonesia in early September, Abuza said.

Abuza said Abu Dujana, believed to have replaced now-detained Abu Bakar Bashir as Jemaah Islamiyah's spiritual leader, has been in MILF camps.

Zulkarnain, a militant believed to be overseeing J's military operations, also graduated from them, Abuza said.

A Philippine government report obtained

by The Associated Press says Filipino Muslim guerrillas have hosted terror training camps for Jemaah Islamiyah and militant groups from Indonesia and Malaysia for at least seven years.

The latest batch of 19 new Jemaah Islamiyah trainees finished last January, the report said.

After the government captured key MILF camps in 2000, the camps were shifted to smaller sites that were meant to handle only up to 20 recruits each but remained crucial to Jemaah Islamiyah's survival, Abuza said.

Despite the arrests of more than 300 members and leaders since 2000, the militant group has kept recruiting, training and plotting attacks.

The Australian Embassy bombing in Jakarta — a difficult target — indicates that security officials may have underestimated its ability to endure crackdowns.

"They weren't going after a mall or a nightclub. They went after a hardened target," Abuza said. "I think they really wanted to signal that they might be down, but they're not out."

China wants custody of N. Korean refugees

BY STEPHANIE HOO

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China urged the Canadian Embassy on Thursday to hand over 44 possible North Korean asylum-seekers, while officials said nine North Koreans who entered an American school in Shanghai had been handed over to Chinese police.

Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang said the group who crossed a fence at the Canadian Embassy on Wednesday would be handled in line with international law and "the spirit of humanitarianism" if they were handed over to China. However, he didn't give any indication of their fate.

"Since these people entered Chinese territory illegally, the Canadian side should hand them over to China," Shen said in a news briefing.

A Canadian Embassy spokesman said he wasn't aware of a Chinese request for custody of the 44 men, women and children. Diplomats were trying to confirm their identities and nationality, but the spokesman said at least some were North Korean.

In Shanghai, the group of nine North Koreans entered the American School on Monday and were handed over to police, who didn't give any assurance about what might happen to them, according to a U.S. Consulate official and a school employee.

Such asylum bids have become common in China, with North Koreans who are fleeing famine and repression at home rushing into embassies, schools and other foreign facilities.

China has allowed hundreds of North Korean asylum-seekers to leave for South Korea. Despite a treaty that obliges Beijing to send them home, it hasn't done so in cases that become public.

The American School in Shanghai lacks any diplomatic status, unlike embassies, which by treaty are foreign territory beyond the reach of Chinese authorities, said the U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Microsoft-EU case

LUXEMBOURG — Microsoft Corp. told a European Union court Thursday that it would suffer irreparable harm if forced to reveal more of its software code to rivals, while the EU said such information was "indispensable" to keep competitors alive.

The U.S. software giant and its allies sought to get the Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance to suspend the EU's far-reaching antitrust order, which would force dramatic changes in Microsoft's business strategy.

Court president Bo Vestdottir must decide whether to grant the stay while Microsoft's appeal is being heard — a process that could take years — or allow it to take effect immediately.

The European Commission found Microsoft guilty in March of abusing its dominant position with the Windows operating system to push into new markets like servers, which connect desktop computers into networks.

The Associated Press

Chinese police head to Haiti for first U.N. mission in west

BY STEPHANIE HOO

The Associated Press

LANGFANG, China — Armed police in combat boots karate-chopped and slashed the air with black clubs, part of a Chinese display of peacekeeping force as Beijing dispatches a 125-strong contingent to Haiti, its first contribution to a U.N. mission in the Western Hemisphere.

Wearing blue U.N. helmets, officers marched in formation and demonstrated martial arts for journalists from more than 20 countries at a new training center south of Beijing on Tuesday.

Others with body armor and clear plastic shields showed of riot-control tactics.

"China yearns to take greater responsibility for international peacekeeping," said Zhao Xiaoxun, commander of a squad of riot police bound for Haiti. "Of course I am reluctant to leave my family, but I am also filled with a very deep sense of honor."



AP

Chinese police officers wearing the United Nations blue helmets practice hand signals with weapons during a demonstration Wednesday at a training camp in Langfang, on the outskirts of Beijing, China.

China sent 31 members of the police contingent to Haiti this month and the rest are scheduled to join them next month in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

"This shows we are making a greater contribution to the peacekeeping missions of the United Nations," said Tan Jun, chief of the peacekeeping division of the Ministry of Public Security.

"I believe that China will make

even greater contributions to U.N. peacekeeping missions in the future."

Since 1999, China has sent 253 police officers on U.N. missions in East Timor, Bosnia, Liberia, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and now Haiti.

In Haiti, the peacekeepers will mainly supervise and train police, maintain order and help rebuild the judicial system, officials at the training center said.

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USS Kitty Hawk group may be heading home

U.S., Iraqis gather to plan government

'In our hands'



Black smoke billows from a burning vehicle after a man reportedly claiming to be a former rightwing extremist set the car on fire Thursday at an entrance gate to Japan's lower house of Parliament. There were no reports of injuries. Police said authorities were holding the driver.

Japanese man makes fiery protest with car

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A right-wing extremist drove a burning car up to the gate of Japan's parliament Thursday to protest the government's failure to resolve a dispute over citizens abducted by North Korea decades ago, police said. No injuries were reported.

A Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesman said authorities arrested the driver, identified as 54-year-old Mitsuyoshi Hasegawa.

He claimed to be the former chairman of a rightist group, the Japanese People's Union, said Akihiro Sakita, a police spokesman.

Hasegawa allegedly told police he was protesting the lack of progress in talks with North Korea over abductions of Japanese citizens by Northern agents in the 1970s and 1980s.

"I'm dissatisfied with the Japanese government's response to the abduction issue," Sakita quoted Hasegawa as saying.

Authorities thought at first he had crashed the car, but later said he set it alight and then drove the burning car to the Parliament's south gate.

Three fire trucks rushed to the

scene and the flames were quickly extinguished. A few hundred people gathered at the scene to watch as three helicopters circled overhead.

Sakita said Hasegawa set the fire with a plastic bag of gasoline and drove some 500 feet before stopping at the Parliament's south gate and abandoning the car.

Security at government buildings and public facilities in Japan has been greatly tightened since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States.

Fears are also high that Japan could be a target for terrorists angered over its dispatch of troops to Iraq on a humanitarian mission in support of the U.S.-led military operation there.

"I think generally, most Japanese are feeling a lot more anxious than they used to," said Yayoi Nakamura, who works in the area.

Japan is negotiating with North Korea for more information on Japanese citizens kidnapped by the reclusive communist regime. In 2002, North Korea admitted kidnapping 13 Japanese and said eight of them had died. Pyongyang released the five survivors.

lateral agreement on the exchange of data between law enforcement agencies and the extradition of suspects.

Sex abuse trials begin

PITCAIRN ISLAND — A series of sex abuse trials opened on Pitcairn Island, the isolated British territory in the Pacific that is home to descendants of the 18th-century Bounty mutineers. The first alleged victim said she was raped as a young girl by the island's mayor.

The unprecedented trials of seven men — more than half the island's adult male population — on 55 charges began Wednesday in the island's community hall, which has been converted into courts staffed by judges and lawyers from New Zealand but operating under British law.

The Associated Press

Meiri death toll in Japan up to 19

By KENJI HALL
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The death toll from tropical storm Meiri rose to 19 Thursday after searchers found more victims, including two men buried inside their homes beneath mud and debris that barreled down a Japanese mountainside.

Meiri has cut a wide swath through Japan since Sunday, causing floods and deadly landslides and forcing about 10,000 people to flee their homes for shelters. Eight people were reported missing and at least 80 others were injured.

By late Thursday, the storm — downgraded from a typhoon after it blew through southern Okinawa toward the main islands — had moved east out to the Pacific Ocean, about 250 miles northeast of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said.

The tempest was slowing and losing steam, but strong winds still were blowing, the agency said.

Troops, firefighters and forest rangers working through the night recovered the body of a 68-year-old man in Miyagawa, about 210 miles southwest of Tokyo, Miyagi prefecture (state) police said. A 34-year-old man was found nearby later.

Four people were confirmed to have died in a mudslide in southern Ehime prefecture after rescue workers recovered the body of a 63-year-old woman Thursday



Japan's Ground Self-Defense Forces personnel conduct search operations Thursday in front of houses destroyed by landslides in Miyagawa village, Miyagi Prefecture, central Japan. Tropical storm Meiri has cut a wide swath of such destruction through Japan since Sunday.

afternoon. In the same area, the body of a 54-year-old man was found after being washed away in a flood, a National Police Agency spokesman said.

The official death toll was 19, the NPA spokesman said. That included 11 people in Ehime, six in Mie and two others in separate southern prefectures.

With the help of heavy-duty mechanical shovels, workers resumed their search for eight missing people after suspending it for fear of more landslides.

The storm has disrupted flights as well as train and ferry services,

leaving thousands of travelers stranded. Landslides and winds damaged or destroyed dozens of homes, and more than 32 inches of rain in some areas caused rivers to swell and pour into streets.

Power has been restored to all but about 5,000 of the nearly 90,000 homes that lost power, utility officials said.

About 10,000 people fled their homes for public shelters, but some public schools reopened after closing Wednesday, Japanese media said.

Seven typhoons have hit Japan this year, exceeding the past record of six in 1990.

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EU, U.S. fight terror

SCHEVENINGEN, Netherlands — U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and EU justice officials agreed Thursday to improve the trans-Atlantic flow of intelligence to help track down terrorists and prevent attacks.

The United States will send an agent from the FBI to the European police agency Europol in The Hague, Netherlands, and the EU will post two agents in Washington, said Antonio Vitorino, the EU justice and home affairs commissioner.

The discussions came at the start of two days of talks between EU justice and internal affairs ministers in the Netherlands, which currently holds the EU presidency.

Later Thursday, France and the United States were to sign a bi-

IN THE STATES

Spaceship could fly again next week

Pilot, designer confident craft will return to space within 2-week limit

BY JOHN ANTICZAK
The Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. — The pilot and designer of a private rocket plane say they are confident it could return to the sky next week in a quest to claim a multimillion-dollar prize, despite a harrowing flight in which the spacecraft rolled dramatically while hurtling toward the edge of the atmosphere.

As spectators and controllers nervously watched from the ground, SpaceShipOne circled dozens of times Wednesday at nearly three times the speed of sound.

Test pilot Michael Melvill ignored a warning to abort Wednesday's flight to complete the first stage of a quest to win a \$10 million. The problem was being analyzed by the spacecraft's builders, who must decide whether to proceed with another flight Monday, well ahead of the two-week deadline to qualify for the Ansari X Prize.

Melville and spacecraft designer Burt Rutan said Wednesday that they were confident the Monday flight would go on. Rutan said rolling occurred during flight simulations, and it was not a complete surprise when it happened.

"We don't know exactly what went wrong. It's likely that it was something silly I did," Melvill told NBC's "Today"



SpaceShipOne comes in for a landing Wednesday in Mojave, Calif., after making its suborbital flight as the Mojave Aerospace Ventures Team attempts to win the Ansari X Prize.

show on Thursday.

The Ansari X Prize will go to the first craft to safely complete two flights in a 14-day span to an altitude of 62 miles — generally considered the point where the Earth's atmosphere ends and space begins.

The X Prize Foundation is offering the bounty in hopes of inspiring an era of

space tourism in which spaceflight is not just the domain of government agencies such as NASA.

Rutan, with more than \$20 million from billionaire Paul Allen, secretly developed SpaceShipOne — which has a wing span of just 16.4 feet — and is well ahead of two dozen teams building X Prize contenders around the world.

Astronaut: Tourism far away

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Eugene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon during the final Apollo landing, said Thursday he doesn't expect space tourism to become reality in the near future, despite a strong demand. Cernan, now 70, who was commander of NASA's Apollo 17 mission and set foot on the lunar surface in December 1972 during his third space flight, acknowledged that "there are many people interested in space tourism."

But the former astronaut said he believed "we are a long way away from the day when we can send a bus of tourists to the moon."

He spoke to reporters before being awarded a medal by the Czech Academy of Sciences for his contribution to science.

"I think the day ... is very near when we can send a school teacher, a student, a poet, an artist, ... a journalist into space," Cernan said. Those space travelers, he said, would "come back and share with the rest of the world their feelings and thoughts."

Cernan was responding to a plan announced by Richard Branson, the British airline mogul and adventurer, for a new "Virgin Galactic" space line.

From The Associated Press

Town mixed on Stewart assignment

The Associated Press

ALDERSON, W.Va. — There are no gates or fences, and most days anyone can drive straight to the warden's home at the Federal Correctional Institute here.

But after Martha Stewart announced that this is where she will serve her time starting Oct. 8 for lying to federal investigators, a corrections officer was stationed at the entrance to turn back reporters and the just plain curious.

The famous and the felonious are nothing new to the town of Alderson. The prison's past inhabitants include two women who tried to kill President Ford — Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme and Sara Jane Moore — and jazz singer Billie Holiday, sentenced on a drug charge.

"Martha Stewart will love it here, and we hope she will want to come back after she's released," resident Karen Lobban said. "This is a beautiful community."

Stewart, 63, said in a statement Wednesday she had hoped to be imprisoned closer to her family, but was pleased that the government had assigned her "so quickly."

Stewart's new prison home is tucked into a town of about 1,000 residents that relies on inmates to clean up the river banks, mow grass and pick up trash. The inmate-staffed fire department assists the town's volunteer department when needed.



Alderson, W.Va., residents talk outside the Riverview Excon on Wednesday. The news that Martha Stewart will be spending five months at the minimum-security women's prison at Alderson has the town talking.

Other Alderson residents were scarcely aware of the latest celebrity sent to do her time in West Virginia.

"We have more serious things to worry about, like floods and hurricanes," said Joanne Jones, a clerk at the local IGA food store.

Stewart and former stockbroker Peter Bacanovic were convicted of lying to federal investigators about why Stewart sold 3.928 shares of InClone Systems Inc. stock in December 2001.

Teen granted scholarship for her stem cell research

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A 17-year-old from Mendota Heights, Minn., has been turning heads with her unconventional umbilical cord stem cell research.

On Wednesday, Nicole Ali was in the nation's capital, accepting a \$50,000 scholarship for her work.

During her sophomore year at St. Paul Academy, Ali won a Minnesota Academy of Science research grant and the opportunity to work with a scientist. She chose stem cell researcher Catherine Verfaillie after reading about the University of Minnesota scientist's work in local papers.

Ali began working at the university at the age of 14. She pitched Verfaillie the idea for her research: Take umbilical cord stem cells, block the protein that causes the cells to break down and make the cells reproduce instead. Scientists have been trying to replicate the teen's research, which could eventually help leukemia patients, according to the foundation that awarded Ali's scholarship.

Ali said she hopes to see results in November from her research on laboratory mice. After that, she might conduct the tests with larger animals or humans, she said.

Ali, who recently started her freshman year at Harvard University, is one of 16 students nationwide to receive scholarship money from the Davidson Institute for Talent Development.

The nonprofit foundation, based in Reno, Nev., awards scholarships to students under 18 in six categories, including science, music and philosophy.

Ali is the first Minnesotan to be selected as a Davidson fellow, said Marie Capurro, director of the Davidson Institute.

Ali's parents, Zak and Mahruza Ali, are both scientists and their talk of science and research at the dinner table played their daughter's interest at an early age, her father said.

Bush Guard document

WASHINGTON — The White House on Wednesday night produced a November 1974 document bearing President Bush's signature from Cambridge, Mass., where he was attending Harvard Business School, saying he had decided not to continue as a member of the military reserve.

The document, signed a year after Bush left the Texas Air National Guard, said he was leaving the military because of "inadequate time to fulfill possible future commitments."

Intelligence bills

WASHINGTON — New immigration barriers and expanded police powers, as well as expanded use of public airwaves for emergency services, are some of the issues trying to find a home in a bill to overhaul U.S. spy agencies.

With the political pressure of an Election Day coming up, Democrats are complaining that too many items they consider extraneous have gotten tacked onto legislation designed to enact recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission on better fighting terrorism.

From The Associated Press

Sizable seismic events in Western U.S.

California still quaking; rumblings cause concern at Mount St. Helens

The Associated Press

ARVIN, Calif. — Earthquakes on two separate faults rattled Central California a day after a 6.0 quake jolted the region. No major damage or injuries were reported.

The tremors Wednesday were close enough in time and location to leave scientists wondering about a possible link. A magnitude-5.0 earthquake shook Kern County, hours after a pair of aftershocks from Tuesday's quake rattled the earth more than 100 miles away in Monterey County.

Meanwhile in Washington state, the flurry of earthquakes at Mount St. Helens intensified further Thursday, and scientists warn that a small or moderate blast could spew ash and rock as far as three miles from the crater in the next few days.

The Kern County, Calif., tremor triggered a rock slide on a state highway, but there were no reports of damage or injury, and the road was quickly cleared.

That earthquake struck 17 miles northeast of Arvin shortly before 4 p.m., said Anthony Guarino, a seismic analyst for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The quake was felt from Sacramento to Las Vegas. It was not an aftershock from Tuesday's quake in Parkfield, 150 miles northwest, seismologists said.

There have been about 600 aftershocks to the Parkfield quake, including six of at least 4.0. Two of the biggest, 5.0 and 4.5, shook the region Wednesday morning, about 5 miles northwest of Parkfield, and the largest rattled window blinds in San Jose.

Susan Hough, a U.S. Geological Survey seismologist, said the aftershocks likely would dissipate, instead of signaling a larger quake to come. The deadly 6.7-magnitude temblor that hit the Northridge area of Los Angeles in 1994 was preceded by an earthquake sequence in the Salton Sea area.

Arvin, a rural community of about 14,000, is 79 miles north of Los Angeles and lies at the eastern end of the White Wolf fault, which ruptured in a magnitude-7.5 quake in 1952.

Tiny Parkfield, population 37, is on an area of the San Andreas fault that is a seismic hot spot, among the most-monitored quake sites in the world.

In Washington, Mount St. Helens began rumbling last week, and by Wednesday earthquakes ranging from magnitude 2 to 2.8 were coming about four times a minute, possibly weakening the lava dome in the crater of the 8,364-foot mountain, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The quakes continued to strengthen early Thursday with several exceeding magnitude 3, according to the Web site of the Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network.

Still, scientists did not expect anything like the mountain's devastating eruption in 1980, which killed 57 people and coated towns 250 miles away with ash.

Few people live near the mountain, which is in a national forest about 100 miles south of Seattle. The closest structure is the Johnston Ridge Observatory, about five miles from the crater.

The heightened alert has drawn a throng of sightseers to observation areas. Dawn Smith, co-owner of Eco Park Resort west of the mountain, told The News Tribune of Tacoma, "It's just been crazy the past couple of days."

A sign in front of the business reads, "Here we go again."

The Geological Survey raised the mountain's eruption advisory from Level 2 to Level 3 out of a possible 4 on Wednesday, prompting officials to begin notifying various state and federal agencies of a possible eruption. The USGS also has asked the National Weather Service to be ready to track an ash plume with its radar system.

Seismic energy released from Mount St. Helens in Washington state has been increasing for days now, cranking up to a level not seen since 1986. In March 1980 a series of medium earthquakes were followed by small eruptions over a two-month period. Then in May of that year an earthquake shook St. Helens causing an avalanche on the northern slope and an explosion of magma, spreading ash over hundreds of miles. Geologists think a much smaller eruption is likely in the next few days.

Volcanic eruptions

Magma chamber generally forms at least two miles beneath the surface

Mount St. Helens is part of a range that rests on the boundaries of tectonic plates.

As continental plates force the ocean floor downward, rock melts forming a molten liquid called magma that rises.

Explosive eruptions project lava, gas and solid rock fragments upward. They can also emit sulfuric acid, which can temporarily alter the climate.

Effusive lava flows are affected by the amount and thickness of the lava, as well as steepness of the slope.

Volcanic mountains grow with each eruption as discharge cools and forms new layers.

Dormant destruction

Pressure builds until it gets too strong for the rock that forms the chamber's ceiling. The magma rises through fissures and erupts through the top or side of the volcano.

Because magma is more buoyant than the rock, it rises and collects in a large reservoir or chamber.

An eruption can be explosive, effusive or both. Explosive eruptions are caused by the expansion of high-pressure gas within rising magma and can result in cloud columns up to 30 miles high. Effusive eruptions involve gas-free magma that forms a lava flow at the surface.

SOURCES: U.S. Geological Survey; "Volcanoes" (Firefly Books Ltd.)

AP

Fla. hurricanes' impact to be felt across national economy

BY JUSTIN POPE
The Associated Press

While Florida's economy will get the biggest jolt from the improbable string of hurricanes this year, consumers around the country may notice the effects in coming weeks and months when they buy a gallon of milk, a carton of orange juice or a bag of peanuts.

The storms seem likely to impact Americans outside Florida in a variety of ways, most of them subtle, but a few with potentially bigger consequences.

A rebuilding boom could suck construction materials and labor southward, pushing up prices in the rest of the country. While Florida's insurance market has its

own disaster fund, damage elsewhere could cause companies to raise premiums. And Florida's tourism would also further harm already teetering airlines, perhaps forcing them to pull out of even more markets.

On the other hand, vacation destinations outside Florida could benefit from skittishness about visiting the state. So could Northern states hoping to stem the flow of people and businesses who have been moving full-time to Florida.

"We've already heard anecdotal evidence of industrial recruiting in Florida," the companies say. "We're going to drop you off our list," said Mark Soskin, an economist at the University of Central Florida. "Now you're actually hearing peo-

ple talking about, 'Maybe this isn't the best place to live.' There's a lot of stress here, you can see it in people's eyes."

For most Americans, the most visible effect of the hurricanes has been their contribution to a surge in oil prices, which broke \$50 per barrel for the first time Tuesday. Florida isn't a major refining center or transportation hub for gasoline, but Hurricane Ivan shut down 39 production plants and two drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. Nearly 12 million barrels of oil, or 2 percent of annual output there, have been lost since craters were evacuated ahead of that storm earlier this month.

Americans will also feel the storms' impact at the grocery store. Orange juice prices at the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain

are currently no higher than a month ago, the company says, but orange juice futures are up more than one-third on commodities markets since the beginning of August, suggesting prices will rise.

Tomato prices have jumped 50 percent in recent weeks, and squash has nearly doubled, said David Bova, an owner of Produce Source Partners, a wholesaler in Roanoke, Va. The hurricanes hit just as many crops were coming out of season in the rest of the country — a gap usually filled by Florida suppliers. The problem was compounded by hot weather in the West that shortened the growing season there.

"Chances are, high prices on these products will not really stabilize for at least 30 to 60 days," Bova said.

Overseas voters know importance of ballots

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — On election night in November 2000, dozens gathered at the American Center in New Delhi to watch the returns.

When Democrats and Republicans alike saw the close results coming in, some were compelled to sheepishly admit that they hadn't bothered to vote.

They had thought their absentee ballots wouldn't really count, or were too difficult to prepare, or would be lost by the Indian post or U.S. diplomatic pouch.

Americans living in India, and dozens of countries worldwide, are determined that won't happen this time around.

"People know the absentee vote potentially turned the election the last time," said Carolyn Sauvage-Mar, an American living in the Indian capital who is pushing compatriots to vote. "This race is close enough that it hinges upon who's going to get out there and vote—and so much is at stake in this election."

In 2000, George W. Bush's election victory was certified only after the overseas ballots were counted. Though Al Gore won the popular vote nationally, Bush won the elec-

Debate coverage

Look for complete coverage of Thursday night's debate in Sunday's edition.

toral vote after being certified the winner by 537 votes in Florida.

"The reality is that the expat vote actually decided the last election," said Sumana Brahman, coordinator of Americans Abroad in India. She and Sauvage-Mar, whose husband works for the U.N. Development Program, are helping Americans through the cumbersome process of getting their absentee ballots in order.

"Too many people are disenfranchised from the process," said Brahman, a 43-year-old consultant with two children at the American Embassy School.

Americans living overseas did not have the right to vote in U.S. presidential elections until 1975, so both women see themselves as new-age suffragettes, defending their franchise.

Both women are reminding Americans that while they may have missed the Sept. 15 deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, they can still get it over the Internet and fax it to a Federal Assistance Voting

Program center by early October, depending on their home state.

Some 7 million Americans live abroad. Those 18 and older are entitled to have their absentee votes counted in the state where they last lived — no matter how long ago that was.

In Italy, where some 169,000 Americans live, the U.S. consulate in Rome reports an overwhelming demand for registration forms. The Washington-based Democrats Abroad had 30 overseas chapters in 2000 and now has a presence in 73 countries, including an Iraq chapter called "Donkeys in the Desert."

With its 492,000 overseas troops in mind, the Pentagon improved its Web site for absentee voters and promised faster mail service as part of efforts to avert a repeat of the balloting problems four years ago. The Defense Department plan also included TV and radio announcements and banners in commissaries and classrooms.

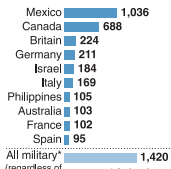
But the program ran into trouble this month over complaints that anti-hacker measures were preventing legitimate voters from using a Web site that assists soldiers and other Americans living overseas.

The Pentagon said it subsequently eased access to the site.

Voices from abroad

The world has changed dramatically since the 2000 election, and Americans living abroad are no longer complacent. They are registering for their absentee ballots.

Top countries outside the U.S. where most American civilians and military personnel live:
In thousands



Sources: Association of Americans Resident Overseas; National Association of Secretaries of State

Religion a campaign issue in W.Va.

BY VICKI SMITH

The Associated Press

WEIRTON, W.Va. — John Edwards says voters should know that religion is important to him and to Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, but the issue shouldn't be used to divide people in the election.

"My faith is very important to me, and the same is true of John Kerry," the vice presidential candidate said after a campaign stop in West Virginia this week.

Kerry was an altar boy-turned-soldier who wore a cross under his uniform every day in Vietnam and once contemplated the priesthood.

Edwards was baptized as a teen, spent a decade in Bible study groups and led the weekly prayer breakfast in the U.S. Senate.

"The two of us talk about our faith with each other," Edwards said. "Our faith is important to us and it's always been important to us, and people should know that."

"I don't think that faith should be used to divide us," he said.

But as both parties battle for the hearts, minds and five electoral votes in this battleground state, religion has emerged as a key issue.

President Bush, who has visited West Virginia nine times since April, has found staunch support among conservative Christians. At rallies, dozens have cited his faith as the main reason for their support — more important than jobs, the economy, even the war in Iraq.

However, some voters and political leaders resent what they see as a manipulation of religion.



Sen. John Edwards

However, "It was an issue that was already out there. It was obviously on the minds of voters."

"When the Massachusetts Supreme Court sanctioned same-sex marriage and people in other states like West Virginia realized they could be compelled to recognize the same laws, same-sex marriage became an issue."

West Virginia is overwhelmingly Democratic but socially conservative, and Grossback said Bush's message of compassionate conservatism played well in 2000, when the Republican won the state by 6.3 percentage points.

"It was an effective combination for Bush to say, 'My faith matters to me, and I want to be compassionate because my faith tells me to. But we want to do it in combination with conservative values,'" Grossback said. "That opened up doors last time."

Pax Christi USA, a group of more than 200 Catholic organizations, announced Thursday it will run full-page newspaper ads in Morgantown, Columbus, Ohio, and Allentown and Erie, Pa., urging the nearly 1 million Catholics in those cities to consider more than abortion when voting.

Gabino Zavala, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, said Catholics must also contemplate war, poverty, health care, capital punishment, mistreatment of immigrants, racism and other issues.

"A politician's commitment to the sanctity of life must be judged by the actions taken to defend and promote life in all its forms," Zavala said.

Executive Director Dave Robinson said the Catholic vote cannot be obtained by "pandering to one solitary issue of our faith's social and moral doctrine."

Americans fail quiz on candidates' issues

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If matching presidential candidates to their positions on basic issues were like a "Jeopardy!" category, most Americans wouldn't earn a single dollar.

More than half of those polled by the National Annenberg Election Survey didn't know President Bush alone favors allowing private investments of some Social Security money. Nearly as many didn't know that only Democratic candidate John Kerry proposes getting rid of tax breaks for the overseas profits of U.S. companies.

Importing drugs from Canada? That's a Kerry issue, but nearly half either didn't know or thought Bush also supported changing federal law to allow for drug imports from Canada.

Making abortions more difficult

to obtain? Nearly one-third of those surveyed didn't know Bush alone supports more restrictions on abortion.

Eliminating the tax on estates? Two-thirds didn't know it's a Bush proposal.

After two years of presidential campaigning and hundreds of millions of dollars in political ads, many voters remained clueless about those and other policies, according to the survey. Annenberg analyst Kate Kenski blamed the candidates for not stressing their points of view and the news media for focusing on character assessments and the race itself.

"It's disappointing that people don't know where the candidates stand, given how much money's been spent on the campaigns," said Kenski, a senior research analyst.



AP photos

Left: Democratic Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts speaks to a crowd at Fort Lauderdale International Airport after arriving in Florida on Wednesday night. **Right:** President Bush spent Thursday visiting with victims of Hurricane Jeanne. On the eve of the first presidential debate, a new poll found Americans to be surprisingly ignorant of the candidates' stances on several key issues.

Court strikes down portion of Patriot Act

Undisclosed searches of phone, Net records deemed unconstitutional

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Justice Department likely will appeal a court ruling that declared unconstitutional a Patriot Act provision allowing secret and unchallengeable searches of Internet and telephone records, Attorney General John Ashcroft said Thursday.

In a blow to the Justice Department's post-Sept. 11 powers, federal Judge Victor Marrero on Wednesday struck down the provision that let the FBI gather phone and Web customer records but barred service providers from ever disclosing the search log files.

Ashcroft, in the Netherlands to meet with

European Union officials, said he would study the decision upon returning to Washington, but "it's almost a certainty it will be appealed."

"We believe the act to be completely consistent with the United States Constitution," he told reporters.

While Marrero called national security of "paramount value" and said the government "must be empowered to respond promptly and effectively" to threats, he also called personal security equal in impor-

tance and "especially prized in our system of justice."

The decision is the second time a judge has ruled unconstitutional part of the Patriot Act, a package of prosecution and surveillance tools passed shortly after the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001.

In January, a federal judge in Los Angeles struck down a section of the act that made it a crime to give "expert advice or assistance" to groups designated foreign terrorist organizations.

The judge said the language was too vague, threatening First and Fifth Amendment rights.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Daniel Jaffar called the latest ruling a "landmark victory," and "a wholesale refu-

lation of excessive government secrecy and unchecked executive power."

Jaffar said his ruling blocks the government from issuing new requests for phone and Internet records "in this or any other case," but delayed the injunction by 90 days to allow time for an appeal.

The judge said the law violates the Fourth Amendment because it bars or deters any judicial challenge to the government searches and violates the First Amendment because its permanent ban on disclosure is a prior restraint on speech.

He noted that the Supreme Court recently said that a "state of war is not a blank check for the president when it comes to the rights of the nation's citizens."

"Something that once extinguished, may be gone for good," Marrero wrote.

Ashcroft

Vioxx pulled from market

TRENTON, N.J. — Pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co. is pulling its blockbuster arthritis drug Vioxx from the market worldwide because new data from a clinical trial found an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Whitehouse Station-based Merck said Thursday that data from the trial showed the increased risk of heart attack and other cardiovascular complications began 18 months after patients started taking Vioxx.

The data comes from a three-year study aimed at showing that Vioxx at a 25 milligram dose prevents recurrence of polyps in the colon and rectum. The trial was stopped after Merck discovered the higher heart risk compared to patients taking dummy pills.

Turtle nests destroyed

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Hurricane Jeanne destroyed many of the sea turtle nests on Florida's central Atlantic beaches that had survived Charley and Frances, officials said.

Canaveral National Seashore lost more than 1,000 sea turtle nests during Frances and most of the remaining 300 to 400 during Jeanne, which hit last weekend, said John Steiner, the park's resource management specialist.

Corporate tax overhaul

WASHINGTON — Prospects are looking brighter for passage of a House-Senate conference committee that began work Wednesday. Members are trying to iron out differences between a bill providing \$170 billion in corporate tax breaks over the next decade that was passed by the Senate in May and a \$155 billion bill passed by the House in June.

But to win approval before Congress' expected adjournment next week, supporters must figure a way to resolve a politically explosive debate over regulation of tobacco products.

And that is just one of the nettlesome issues that must be settled by a House-Senate conference committee that began work Wednesday. Members are trying to iron out differences between a bill providing \$170 billion in corporate tax breaks over the next decade that was passed by the Senate in May and a \$155 billion bill passed by the House in June.

From The Associated Press

By JESSE J. HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New immigration barriers and expanded police powers, as well as expanded use of public airwaves for emergency services, are some of the issues trying to find a home in a bill to overhaul U.S. spy agencies.

With the political pressure of an Election Day coming up, Democrats are complaining that too many items they consider extraneous have gotten tacked onto legislation designed to enact recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission on better fighting terrorism.

The House and Senate are churning their way through bills to create a national intelligence director and a national com-

terrorism center to address the Sept. 11 commission's complaint that the nation's intelligence agencies didn't work together properly to stop the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington.

However, those two ideas — that an intelligence director should exist before Election Day and have a counterterrorism center to help fight terrorism — are about the only things that the House, Senate and White House agree on so far.

House Republicans who want the Sept. 11 bill to include other anti-terrorism and immigration enforcement powers produced a 300-plus page package laden with bills they had introduced before the Sept. 11 report came out. Five House committees — Armed Services, Financial Services, Judiciary, Gov-

ernment Reform and Intelligence — completed their markup of the bill on Wednesday, with Republicans blocking attempts from Democrats to strip GOP provisions out of the bill or to substitute a Senate bill that deals only with creating a national intelligence director.

By doing a large, comprehensive bill that would increase police powers and implement new illegal immigration measures such as denying immigrants certain court appeals and allowing more people to be arrested on accusations of supporting a terrorist group, House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., says they're responding to what the Sept. 11 commission wants: greater security for America.

All the Democrats voted against the bill Wednesday except Rep. Adam Schiff of California.

Minorities reign in California suburbia

By RYAN PEARSON

The Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — Many tourists now make up a majority of residents in Orange County, California's quintessential swath of suburbia, according to census data released Thursday.

Two other suburban counties — high-growth Riverside east of Los Angeles and wealthy San Mateo south of San Francisco — also joined 17 other California counties that reached majority-minority status as of 2000.

Two opposite trends tipped the balance in Orange and San Mateo counties, which lost white residents as the number of nonwhite residents increased, according to an Associated Press analysis of the Census Bureau estimates.

Overall, 55 percent of California's 35.5 million residents are minorities, compared with 53 percent of 34 million residents in 2000, the data shows.

One city that illustrates the rapid changes in Orange County, an area once known across the country as white, conservative and Republican, is Garden

Grove. The city near Disneyland was incorporated in 1956, at the height of the postwar population boom that transformed the county from a quiet, rural area to a sprawling suburb.

"We do really have a real salad bowl here," says Mayor Bruce Broadwater, noting that 82 languages are spoken in the households of the Garden Grove school district. The city also is home to one of the country's largest mosques, located in what was once a Protestant church.

Each year, Garden Grove has a Korean Festival, a Tet Festival and an Arab Festival, as well as the enduring Strawberry Festival, which recalls its agricultural days.

But some newer residents say fitting in hasn't always been easy.

Katelyn Nguyen, 22, recalls being called out of class as a child by concerned counselors who thought the red marks on her back were a sign of child abuse. The marks actually were caused by her mother's use of an Asian health technique that involved using coins to rub her body with oil.

"It happened all the time. They



just didn't know," Nguyen said Wednesday as she fed her 2-year-old daughter, Dana, a Vietnamese sandwich shop across the street from City Hall.

Nguyen, who moved to Orange County from Vietnam when she was 9 months old, says she has been called derogatory names and that her mother is looked down upon because of her limited English.

She said she finds television's "The O.C.," which depicts a rich, white crowd living in Orange County, as amusing in how far it differs from her reality.

Terry Thomas, who has lived in Garden Grove since 1945, said everyone is welcome in Orange County.

"It's not 'white suburbia,'" Thomas said. "It's suburbia, period. For all nationalities."

Panel urges teamwork to fight obesity

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Schools, food makers, government agencies and families themselves must work together to reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity, a panel of scientists said Thursday.

The prestigious Institute of Medicine called Thursday for the wide-ranging effort that includes less time in front of television and computer screens, changes in food labeling and advertising, more school and community physical education programs and education to help children make better choices.

"It is now critical to alter social norms and attitudes" so that healthy eating behavior and physical activity become a routine part of life, Dr. Jeffrey Koplan of Emory University in Atlanta, chairman of the committee that prepared the recommendations.

The report from the IOM, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, is the latest to focus on the sharp increase in childhood obesity.

Over the last 30 years the rate of childhood obesity has tripled among youngsters aged 6 to 11 and has doubled for those aged 2 to 5 and 12 to 19, the institute reported.

FACES

Shatner punks Iowa town

Riverside, Iowa, has been "punk'd" by William Shatner, aka "Star Trek" Capt. James T. Kirk, and Spike TV. Riverside considers itself the "future birthplace" of Capt. Kirk, commander of the starship USS Enterprise in the '60s "Star Trek" series.

Shatner had been shooting scenes in Riverside for what he said was a low-budget, sci-fi movie titled, "Invasion Iowa."

On Tuesday night, he invited residents to view scenes that he'd been directing in and around town for a week.

Shatner thanked some 800 people who turned out for the gathering and then revealed the filming had been for a new reality show on Spike TV about a small town playing host to a Hollywood film shoot.

"Everything in front of and behind the cameras was faked," Shatner said. "The only thing that was real is the love we have for Riverside."

To soften the blow, Shatner announced that he and his co-producers were donating \$100,000 to the city to be used for community projects. The cast and crew also passed the hat and collected \$12,000 for the Riverside Elementary School Book Fund.

Punk-rock trio gets political

One of the biggest role models from the "I don't care" era has done a complete 180-degree turn.

Using their famous three-chord melodies, the spiky-haired trio Green Day have been lambasting President Bush.

"It was a little hipper to be apathetic [back then]," says singer-guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong. "Right now, it's more about facing danger. That's what growing up is all about."

However, their new album, "American Idiot," isn't all about politics. It was written as a narrative, making it a "punk opera" of sorts. The central character is a rebellious teen named Jesus of Suburbia.

"It wasn't a kid that is trying to find his beliefs and his ethics, coming from a broken home, being fed up with his hometown and his local 7-11," said Armstrong, who still circles his eyes with black eyeliner.

'Barenaked' television

Fox Broadcasting Co. has ordered a pilot for a variety show starring the Barenaked Ladies that will feature the playful rock group performing music and comedy skits along with guest actors.

The Canadian band, known for writing upbeat songs with quirky lyrics and engaging their audiences with onstage banter, will have plenty of leeway to ad-lib on the show, tentatively titled, "The Barenaked Ladies Variety Show."

Some of the band members — Steven Page, Jim Creegman, Ed Robertson, Kevin Hearn and Tyler Stewart — will perform.

Brooks to film in N.Y.

Mel Brooks will shoot the film version of his hit Broadway musical "The Producers" at a new movie studio in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

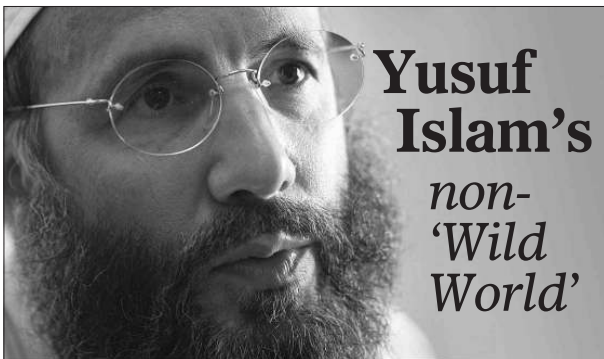
Brooks, a Brooklyn native, said new financial incentives and his love of New York helped persuade him to shoot at the recently opened Steiner Studios.

Governor Michael Bloomberg and Mayor George Pataki credited new state and local tax credit programs with attracting Brooks' film to New York.

Brooks had another reason. "The bagels, just the bagels alone," he said. "You go to Toronto, they're mushy."

"The Producers: The Movie Musical" will star Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Yusuf Islam's non-'Wild World'

Ex-Cat Stevens seeks peace, purity of faith while dealing with Western suspicions

BY ANTHONY BREZNICA
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — He hasn't been an entertainer for decades, but when the folk-rock singer once known as Cat Stevens has resurfaced over the years, it's usually in a way that stuns or confuses the fans who still love his old songs.

Last week brought another such incident: Stevens, who changed his name to Yusuf Islam when he became a Muslim in 1977, was detained after a flight to the United States because his name is on a government anti-threat watch list.

Although the one-time singer of "Peace Train," "Morning Has Broken" and "Wild World" abandoned his fame and converted to the religion to find a sense of tranquility, it has often brought him public scorn.

He previously angered many around the world by appearing equivocal in the 1980s about the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses."

Some radio stations banned his music or symbolically destroyed his albums, but he later said his remarks were misunderstood and insisted he did not want to see Rushdie killed.

However surprising his life choices have been for fans, it was no surprise that Cat Stevens never wanted to be a star.

At the peak of his career, Stevens, a Briton who was born Stephen Georgiou, even wrote a song about his distaste for showbiz. It was plainly titled "(I Never Wanted) To Be a Star."

One verse went, "I never wanted to be a star/Buy my mom a Ferrari car/I only wanted to run my own race/So I could win a small place/In your heart."

He decided to change his life after nearly drowning at a beach in Malibu in 1976. Shortly afterward, his brother returned from Jerusalem with an English translation of the Quran, the Muslim holy book. A year later, Stevens converted and changed his name.

He married in 1979 and formally renounced his singing career in 1981.

"It was not necessarily the music or the singing, but everything else that was corrupt: the drugs, sex, conceit, the unhealthy competition," Islam told The Associated Press in 1995.

He married a woman named Fouzia Ali and they had five children. He became a teacher and an advocate for his religion, founding a Muslim school for children in London

in 1983.

Islam has been active with numerous charities over the years, but has consistently declared he is not a militant.

Islam recently condemned the school seizure by militants in Beslan, Russia, that left more than 300 dead, nearly half of them children. In a statement on his Web site, he wrote, "Crimes against innocent bystanders taken hostage in any circumstance have no foundation whatsoever in the life of Islam and the model example of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him."

Last year, he re-recorded his 1971 hit song "Peace Train" at studios in Johannesburg, South Africa, to raise money for children affected by the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Other contributors include Paul McCartney, David Bowie and George Michael.

Amid the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999, he was part of a group that tried to deliver \$33,000 directly to Kosovo refugees, but border guards stopped them and confiscated the money. He later said he delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars to Kosovo war orphans.

Just what he did to make the warning list remained unclear. A government official said Wednesday that authorities had requested information he may have had associations with potential terrorists.

He was not accused of being a terrorist himself, however, and was set to be deported on the next available flight out of the United States.

Islam's brother and business manager, David Gordon, said the terrorist connection was false. "His only work, his only mind-set, is humanitarian causes. He just wants to be an ambassador for peace."

The former pop star has found a kind of mature acceptance of his musical past, and has tried to use his Cat Stevens shadow to draw attention to his devotional records, such as the children's religious guide "A Is for Allah."

Cat Stevens songs remain popular to this day. His recordings turned up on soundtracks for movies such as "Rushmore" and "Almost Famous," while the songs are frequently covered by contemporary artists. Sheryl Crow has a current radio hit with his "The First Cut Is the Deepest," and The Mavericks did a country-western version of "Here Comes My Baby."

Although he has said he considers his old love songs impure, Islam has also acknowledged, in lighter moments, that he still enjoys listening to some of his old music and he has not tried to withhold the music from the public.

"The records are still spinning," he told the AP in 1995, "if you want to listen to them."



Page



Armstrong



AP photos

Yusuf Islam, center, formerly known as Cat Stevens, arrives at London's Heathrow airport after being refused entry to America last week. U.S. officials, who had ordered Islam taken off a London-to-Washington flight, said his name was on a security watch list.



Brooks

Tribute to Ray Charles

Musicians praise late singer in rousing concert

BY DAISY NGUYEN

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — An eclectic lineup of musicians honored Ray Charles in a tribute concert, praising the late singer's rich life and his ability to transcend race and musical genres.

"Make no mistake about it, there will be no pity party," said music producer Quincy Jones, who met Charles when the two were teens.

Jones told the packed audience at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Wednesday night that Charles "lived more lives than any 900 of you. In his last days, he told me, 'Man, I've already lived it all.'"

Performers included Stevie Wonder, country singer Travis Tritt, former Doobie Brother Michael McDonald, and R&B artists James Ingram and Patti Austin. They sang Charles' hits, such as "Georgia On My Mind," "What I'd Say" and "Hit the Road Jack."

Bill Cosby was host of the event, which raised money for the



Stevie Wonder performs at a tribute to Ray Charles benefitting Atlanta-based Morehouse College on Wednesday in the Beverly Hills section of Los Angeles.

\$15 million Morehouse College Center for the Arts in Atlanta. Charles gave the black liberal arts college \$2 million to help fund the complex, which will contain a performance space in his name.

Cosby shared some of his favorite memories of the singer, who

had been blind since age 7. He recalled how during a jazz festival at the Hollywood Bowl, Charles appeared on stage with a band of all white musicians.

"I said to Ray, 'Your band is all white,' he said, 'That's funny. They don't sound white.'"

Charles was 73 when he died of acute liver disease June 10.

Ruling banning man from having kids is overturned

Court calls Ohio judge's order to father, on probation for late child support, too broad

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday overturned a judge's order that a man avoid having more children while on probation for failing to pay child support.

The court ruled 5-2 in favor of Sean Talty, saying his sentence was too broad because it did not include a method for lifting the ban if Talty caught up with his child-support payments.

Talty, 32, has seven children by five women. He was required to make "reasonable" efforts to avoid conception during his five-year probation after being convicted of not supporting three of the children.

Providing a procedure for lifting the ban "would have been, at the very least, an easy alternative that would have better accommodated Talty's procreation rights," Chief Justice Thomas Moyer wrote for the court's majority.

Medina County Common Pleas Judge James L. Kimbrell issued the order, which was later upheld by an appellate court in Akron. The case now returns to Kimbrell for resentencing.

Prosecutors defended the lower court's order.

Talty's attorney, J. Dean Carro, said he's hoping the judge removes the order on having children entirely when he resents Talty.

Talty has "done exactly what the court has asked — if there's a model probationer, he's it," Carro said.

"We don't want to create another round of problems — the safest way is to eliminate the condition entirely."

Talty pleaded no contest in 2002 to failing to pay \$38,000 in child support for three of his children with his former wife and another woman.

Since then, he has paid the court-ordered \$150 weekly in back child support and avoided fathering more children, Carro has said.



Talty

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• **SPORTS**

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
8:00 Classic 90s
9:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Top Choice: murmur

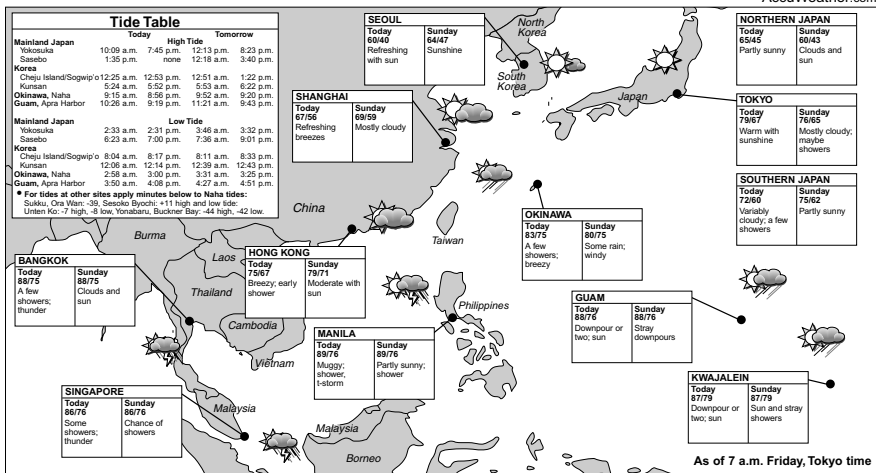
Afternoon
12:00 Consensus
2:30 Ashlie Simpson
1:00 World Chart Express Supported by
Monda
3:00 Newywards
4:00 Top Choice
4:00 1-Click Saturday

Evening
6:00 Screen
6:30 Video Music Awards 2004: Red Carpet
Special
8:00 Video Music Awards 2004
11:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry
1:00 Newywards
2:30 Check the Rhyme
2:30 Ashlie Simpson
2:30 Rock On
3:00 After Hours

The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Rain, high 73, low 63.
 Tuesday: Thunder showers, high 78, low 69.

KADENA

Monday: Showers, high 83, low 75.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 75.

SEoul

Monday: Partly sunny, high 70, low 50.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 72, low 54.

MANILA

Monday: Showers, high 87, low 76.
 Tuesday: Showers, high 87, low 75.

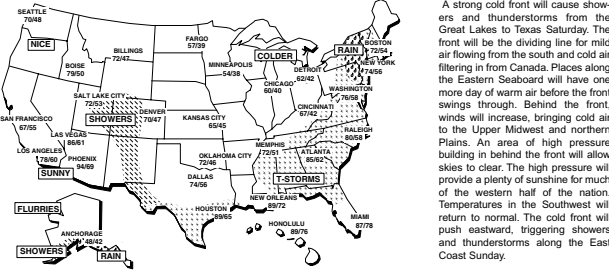
HAGATNA

Monday: Showers, high 88, low 78.
 Tuesday: Showers, high 88, low 78.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	68/50	Los Angeles	72/60
Amarillo	79/53	Little Rock	83/58
Anchorage	47/36	Louisville	77/54
Ashville	77/55	Miami	88/78
Baltimore	76/52	Milwaukee	70/55
Birmingham	84/56	Nashville	77/53
Bismarck	65/36	New York	71/56
Boise	79/50	Omaha	62/59
Boston	67/56	Orlando	90/72
Brownsville	92/74	Philadelphia	72/54
Buffalo	68/46	Phoenix	91/67
Burlington	67/45	Pittsburgh	70/44
Charleston, SC	85/69	Portland, OR	73/51
Charlotte	82/60	Portland, ME	67/46
Chicago	69/47	Salt Lake City	67/49
Columbus, OH	75/51	St. Louis	78/58
Duluth	64/49	San Antonio	90/68
El Paso	81/56	San Diego	71/64
Hartford	67/48	San Juan	88/76
Helena	67/38	Tampa	88/74
Indianapolis	75/51	Tulsa	86/66
Jacksonville	86/69	Washington	78/59
Kansas City	80/61	Wichita	83/61

Saturday, October 02



Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/75	Jeju	74/57
Beijing	63/46	Kadena AB	83/75
Camp Casey	59/39	Kunsan AB	62/46
Christchurch	50/34	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	83/76	Manila	89/76
Hagatna	88/76	Misawa AB	74/50
Hanoi	76/64	Osan	61/40
Hong Kong	75/67	Perth	65/50
Honolulu	89/76	Pusan	69/51

HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH
72/60	Acapulco	9
65/45	Athens	7
60/40	Auckland	5
67/56	Baghdad	10
86/76	Barbados	8
69/50	Barcelona	7
67/47	Berlin	5
78/63	Bermuda	7
79/67	Brussels	

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Budapest	64/45	Kabul	82/40
Buenos Aires	72/52	Kiev	55/38
Cairo	95/66	Kuwait	106/78
Cancun	85/70	London	61/48
Cape Town	84/60	Madrid	85/64
Geneva	60/47	Mexico City	73/55
Glasgow	69/55	Montreal	64/44
Jerusalem	86/64	Mogadishu	87/72
Johannesburg	84/57	Moscow	47/32
		Warsaw	57/40



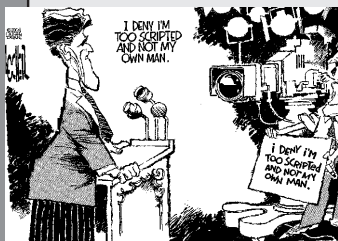
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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



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N.Y. to raise bar

NY ALBANY — The bar will soon be a little higher on the New York state bar examination. The state Board of Law Examiners has approved increasing the minimum passing grade on the bar exam for prospective lawyers from 660 to 675 on a scale of 1,000. The scoring change will be done in three stages, to 665 beginning with the July 2005 exam, to 670 in July 2006 and to 675 in July 2007.

The current passing grade of 660 was set in 1979.

State to replace housing

VA DAWN — Sun-bleached trailers and dilapidated houses without indoor plumbing will soon be replaced with government-built homes under a \$1 million grant to rebuild and repair between 20 and 30 residences in this small Caroline County community. Though county officials are unsure exactly how many homes will be fixed, the grant money signals a victory after years of frustrating state denials. The money, awarded through the state Department of Housing and Community Development, was announced last week by Gov. Mark R. Warner.

Smoking out money

IA DES MOINES — The state is taking legal action against more than a dozen small cigarette manufacturers who are not making payments required under a 1998 settlement with tobacco companies.

In some cases, the state will not see much money from the lawsuits, but is obligated to pursue the small companies or face being sued by the nation's most powerful tobacco companies, who reached the settlement with Iowa and 45 other states.

Residents speak out

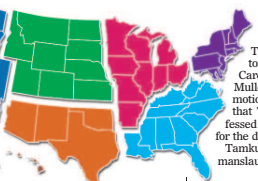
ID IDAHO FALLS — In response to hundreds of letters from citizens, the National Academy of Sciences will accept testimony in Idaho about the impact Cold War nuclear testing had on their health. About 150 residents submitted comments on the need to extend the federal government's compensation program to Idaho victims of radioactive fallout from atmospheric testing in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s. The Academy's Board on Radiation Effects Research is writing a report that will recommend whether the government should expand a compensation program to those individuals.

Nude sunbather dies

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A man sunbathing nude on the terrace of a bar in the city's largely gay Castro District died after getting into a fight with a patron who complained.

Jay Carbone, 52, fell and hit his head during the scuffle at the Pendulum bar, police said.

According to police, Carbone ordered drinks and disrobed. After about an hour, another man complained and asked Carbone to put his clothes on. Police said Carbone



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

replied, "If you don't like it, get out."

No immediate charges were filed.

Son mistakenly killed

TX HOUSTON — A Houston man fatally shot his 18-year-old son after mistaking him for a burglar, police said.

Eli Johnson, 18, was shot inside his family's home. Forrest E. Johnson, 49, told police he came home to find the front door partially open and became suspicious. He returned to his truck to get his handgun because he thought his home was being burglarized.

When Johnson tried to push open the front door, someone from the inside pulled the doorknob at the same time, police said.

Johnson told investigators he saw someone standing in front of him, so he fired a shot.

Eli Johnson was struck in the chest and died at Ben Taub General Hospital.

Police questioned the elder Johnson but did not take him into custody. Police will refer the case to a Harris County grand jury.

Senior charged in death

CT WILTON — An 88-year-old nursing home resident was charged with killing his roommate by hitting him with the footboard of a bed.



Playing in the rain

Brittany Logan and Sara Plochicky ride a motor scooter in the rain in Bristol, Conn.

John Tamkun was arraigned on charges he killed 82-year-old Thomas Mullen at Wilton Meadows Health Care Center. Police said Mullen was found lying motionless on the floor and that Tamkun quickly confessed he was responsible for the death.

Tamkun was being held on manslaughter charges.

Teen stabbed in back

MI BRUCE TOWNSHIP — A 16-year-old girl was stabbed in the back with an 8-inch kitchen knife as she walked in a hallway at her high school, and her ex-boyfriend was arrested nearby and charged with attempted murder, police said.

Nicole Lambert was recovering from the attack.

Her ex-boyfriend, Eric Schorling, 16, was charged with attempted murder, Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel said.

Lambert was standing near the library at Romeo High School when Schorling allegedly stabbed her in the back and fled.

The girl initially thought she had been walked to the back until she walked to class and a teacher saw the knife in her back, Sgt. Bill Mangano said.

Schorling was arraigned on charges of attempted murder, assault with intent to murder and carrying a weapon in weapons-free school zone. He was jailed on a \$1 million bond pending a preliminary hearing. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison.

Bus driver suspended

KY LULYSESSE — In rural eastern Kentucky, where it's hardly unusual to find folks carrying shotguns in hunting season, the suspension of a school bus driver for giving one such hunter a ride has many parents asking: What's the big deal? Lawrence County School Superintendent Jeff May said he's been swamped with calls from people rallying in support of bus driver Kathy Laney even though she allowed a squirrel hunter on board with a 20-gauge shotgun.

May said that Laney, a bus driver for about six years, stopped on her route to school to give 67-year-old Ralph Musica a ride past some threatening dogs that were in the road.

Laney was apologetic for what she called a lapse in judgment.

Ambush photographer

OH COLUMBUS — An attorney was sentenced to a year and a half in jail for ambushing dozens of women while nude and taking pictures of their shocked expressions.

But Stephen Linnen, 34, won't lose his law license and will be allowed to leave jail to continue work as a law clerk.

He pleaded guilty to 53 misdemeanor counts of public indecency, sexual imposition and criminal trespassing.

Linnen, a former lawyer for the Ohio House Republican caucus, has admitted to photographing women while he was unclothed over nearly two years, gaining the name "the naked photographer." He apologized in court, but none of his victims were there.



That's mine!

Elijah Allen's dog Lucky leaps at the catch as Allen shows his parents what he pulled out the pond at Elver Park in Madison, Wis.



Education workout

Education Secretary Rod Paige joins fourth and fifth graders as he participates in Cathy Lowry's physical education class at North Ridge Elementary School in Raleigh, N.C.



Pimpin' my ride

Devon Dante Harris cruises in Bakersfield, Calif., on his homemade 4-wheel vehicle with a complete stereo system, including several speakers.



Record-breaking pillow fight Members of New Heights Church in Vancouver, Wa., swing pillows at each other in hopes of breaking the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people engaged in a pillow fight.



Recess fun Naihun Yates, left, and Abby Adams, 9, hang out with classmates on the monkey bars at Garfield Elementary School in Loveland, Colo.



Gloomy days Tryston Perkowski, 4, of Millville, Pa., wearing a plastic rain parka and carrying an umbrella, looks down the rainy midway as he makes his way around the Bloomsburg Fair in Bloomsburg, Pa.



Blissful morning A bird is silhouetted against the morning sky as the full moon is illuminated above Lake Champlain, seen from Overlook Park in South Burlington, Vt.

Schools without nurses

MD BALTIMORE — Twenty of Baltimore's 39 high schools don't have a nurse this school year, a situation administrators blame on cuts in program to place health personnel in every school. The lack of nurses is one of the effects stemming from cuts in a \$10 million nursing program that is meant to place a nurse or health aide in every Baltimore school. The medical personnel are provided by the city's Health Department, and the program is funded by the schools and the city.

Sheep hunt lottery

HI VOLCANO — Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is looking for volunteers with rifles to help rid the park's new 116,000 acres of thousands of feral sheep.

The National Park Service recently acquired the land on the Big Island from Kahuku Ranch. With the land came thousands of mountain sheep, native to Corsica and Sardinia in the Mediterranean, that were brought to the ranch for hunting in the 1960s. Their population is multiplied over the years because they have no natural predators.

The park service will conduct a public lottery Nov. 8 to select participants in the hunt, officials said. The project will continue indefinitely and lotteries will be held every six months, officials said.

Center gets first apes

IA DES MOINES — Warning lights flashed atop four police cars as the caravan wound its way up the driveway in a procession fit for a foreign potentate.

At long last, Azy and Indah had arrived. They even flew through a hurricane to get here.

The brother and sister orangutans are the first two residents at the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, where scientists will study the behavior and learning capabilities of four types of great apes.

Azy, the male, and Indah ate fruit and drank lemonade during the 2½-hour flight. They also chewed gum to help their ears pop. The two had been living at the National Zoo, where Shumaker began working with them in 1995.

When finished, the center will have bonobos, chimpanzees and gorillas along with the orangutans.

Secret taping charge

TX AUSTIN — An Austin man has been accused of secretly videotaping nudists at the Hippie Hollow park near Austin.

Dale Alan Whitenhafer, 38, of Gilbert, Ariz., was arrested by Travis County park rangers for allegedly using a video camera that was hidden inside a collapsible ice chest, with holes to allow the taping.

Whitenhafer was arrested when somebody noticed him with the video camera.

He is charged with improper visual recording to arouse or gratify and is free on a \$7,500 bond.

Booze served at school

DC WASHINGTON — It was not the sort of letter a school delights in sending home to its families.

"Dear Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Parents: 'It is with great re-

gret that I tell you that your child may have been exposed to alcohol today at lunch," said the missive signed by Alexander Harvey IV, head of the private Alexandria County Day School.

It was tequila and margarita mix, to be precise, left in the refrigerator in a pitcher and mistaken for limeade by kitchen staff, who poured it into small cups and served it to children as a lunch treat, he wrote.

An administrator who realized something was wrong started investigating. Harvey said and quickly discovered that the limeade was really liquor — although it is unclear why the kitchen staff didn't notice. It had been left over, he said, from a party two days earlier at the school for the staff, faculty and Board of Trustees.

Fire-threat closings

CA SANTA CLARITA — Officials closed thousands of acres in two of Southern California's four national forests, citing extreme fire danger as the drought-plagued region braces for fall's hot and dry winds.

Ninety percent of the Angeles National Forest was shut down, and about 20 percent of the Cleveland National Forest was closed to visitors.

Firestorms last October and November burned across more than 750,000 acres in the region — including parts of the Cleveland forest — destroying 3,650 homes and killing 24 people.

The Angeles forest to the north and east of Los Angeles covers about 680,000 acres, an area roughly the size of Rhode Island.

People who venture into closed areas of the national forests risk arrest and fines up to \$5,000.

Party investigation

MA AMHERST — Campus administrators are investigating reports of a drunken party in a student government office at the University of Massachusetts that included students posing with a caricature of the speaker of the student senate dressed as a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Pictures from the March 29 party were released by the student Office of African, Latino, Asian and Native American Affairs.

Students protest speaker

MS JACKSON — The NAACP, local officials and college students protested the possible appearance of reputed Ku Klux Klan figure Edward Ray Killen at next month's Mississippi State Fair.

In 1967, Killen was tried on federal conspiracy charges in the Klan's June 21, 1964, killings of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County. He was freed after a hung jury verdict and has never faced state charges.

Richard Barrett, who heads the white supremacist organization known as the National Movement, said Killen had agreed to make an appearance at the group's booth in the Agricultural Building.

More than 30 people, some carrying signs with slogans such as "Mississippi is still burning" and "1st Amendment is no excuse for abuse," protested at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

This is the last day of Venus in bighearted Leo. Enjoy the frivolity of romance and the fire of passion, but don't expect it to last. We'll be getting more practical about love when Virgo accepts Venus as its new houseguest. Love will be shown in acts of respect and kindness rather than declared in the heat of the moment. Make a grand gesture now.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 2). This year should find you getting big projects out of the way. If you've been putting off some monumental task like cleaning out the garage, having elective surgery or starting your own business, this is the year to do it. Your enthusiasm and determination are at their zenith, making you a magnet for success.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Mentally prepare yourself to launch into a new diet, fitness regime or meditation practice. Think about your goals, visualize yourself achieving them, and set a reasonable deadline. Start small, and work your way up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Never underestimate the healing power of vegging out. If you can wholeheartedly embrace your laziness and revel in it to your very core, your body will probably thank you. No one can run on empty indefinitely.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

When you clear out the clutter, you help someone in need and help the environment, too. What could be more perfect? Recycle, donate your old clothes and appliances, or plant a tree. Choose a good deed that fits your style.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Get the blains? Indulge in comforts of all kinds, especially foods. A hearty, healthful stew of potatoes, carrots, parsnips, butternut squash and onions should be just the thing to warm your heart. Get cozy with loved ones, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

A friend or special someone may be in need of your assistance and not even know it. Listen to your inner voice.

Is there someone in your social circle who could be drawn out of a blue mood? You're just the person to do it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Explore anything that interests you. With your organizational skills and

willingness to see a project through to the end, you should be able to master any skill you want to learn. All you need is to find the right teacher.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Are you still holding onto something from last season that's really outlived its usefulness? Face it: Time marches on, whether you're ready or not.

Change your tires, your storm windows, your motor oil and your attitude.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Things are moving behind the scenes that you don't understand. If you've been beating yourself up over something, it's time to let yourself off the hook. People are too wrapped up in their own dramas to pay close attention anyway.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You gave in to the urge to splurge, and now, you're feeling the pinch. Your generosity is legendary, but now is not the time to dole out financial aid to loved ones looking for handouts. Instead, help them help themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Failure is an event, not a person. Remember that the next time you feel the need to criticize. We all have our weaknesses. Consider yourself lucky if someone loves you in spite of yours, and then, try to return the favor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Get into your yard or garden, and get to work. Raking, pruning and pulling weeds can be mentally therapeutic after spending your whole day behind a desk. It's also a pretty good workout if you give it your full attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Something or someone near and dear to your heart could be going away, but love and good fortune will be returned to you threefold. Whether it's a child off to college or a dog you've shepherded, letting go is hard but necessary.

Creators Syndicate

Yoyle Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



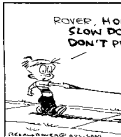
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



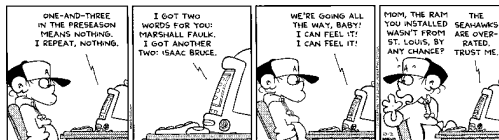
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fortrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



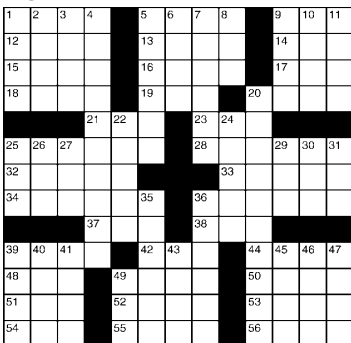
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Between assignments
- 5 Circulate
- 9 Tell a tale
- 12 Requisite
- 13 Carnival attraction
- 14 Big hoopla
- 15 Bedecked (in)
- 16 Surrounded by
- 17 HUD secretary
- 18 Martinez
- 19 Stereo setup
- 20 Witty comment
- 21 Ram's m'am
- 22 55-Across' backup, often
- 25 Golf legend
- 26 Educate
- 32 Check the fit
- 33 Foolish
- 34 Restitution
- 35 Nailed with a beanball
- 37 See 39-Across
- 38 Whatever amount
- 39 With 37-Across, amblyopia
- 42 Take the gold
- 44 Part of a Batman costume
- 48 Flamenco cheer
- 49 Skirt length
- 50 Neighborhood
- 51 Petrol
- 52 In due time
- 53 Quest
- 54 Can. prov.

Down

- 1 Part of the foot
- 2 Where to find a hero
- 3 Read casually
- 4 "Walk on Water" singer
- 5 Constitution contributor
- 6 VIP's transport
- 7 Hatful
- 8 Become one
- 9 Irene Cara song
- 10 Fateful Forum day
- 11 Piece of hardware
- 20 "Walk the Line" singer
- 22 Peter Pan's pal
- 24 Offspring
- 25 Bake-sale org.
- 26 Branch
- 27 Caustic solution
- 29 Squirrel's hangout
- 30 Inseparable
- 31 Took center stage
- 35 Ross' craft
- 36 Pooch
- 39 Trademark symbol
- 40 Chester — Arthur
- 41 Piquancy
- 43 Pedestal occupant
- 45 Subject of Weird Al Yankovic's "The White Stuff"
- 46 Sob
- 47 TV's Long March
- 48 Ricki leader

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-2

CRYPTOQUIP

N F W T R P N G S T R X P
S B H R F R B A H V W Q W J S I W R G
S D E I J W S N H R T K R P W J ?
P X J W B V W W N F R Q W D ' P
G A G N F !

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE A SOOTHING SALVE APPLIED TO EVE'S MATE MIGHT BE DUBBED "THE ADAM BALM."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals F

Sleepkicker needs to see a doc

Dear Abby: My husband, "Sherman," and I sleep together. Recently I have noticed that he constantly moves his legs and feet. He does this even after he falls asleep.

I have lost a lot of sleep during the last few weeks because of his constant leg movements.

I approached Sherman this morning and asked him to go to the doctor and get something for this. He became defensive, I told him if he isn't willing to go with me to the doctor, I'd have to sleep in another bed because I need my rest. I'm also afraid Sherman isn't getting the rest he needs, even though he may not realize it.

I feel if my husband respects me and cares about my feelings, he should be willing to go. Who is right?

—Sleepless in Burlington, Wash.

Dear Sleepless: You are, of course, and your husband is acting like a baby. Since the symptoms are new, he should be examined by a doctor. Your husband may have a condition known as Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). (An estimated 10 percent of the population has it, and information about it can be found at the Web site of the National Restless Legs Foundation, www.rls.org.)

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: My husband works at a busy airport for an elevator company. Among his varied duties, he must file a report on all elevator and escalator accidents.

A few simple rules would eliminate the vast majority of accidents. It would be a great public service if you would print these safety tips in your column.

—Delight J., Winterhaven, Fla.

Dear Delight: I'm "delighted" to spread the word.

■ **Step on and off elevators and escalators carefully.**

■ **Do not use your hand to stop an elevator door from closing.**

■ **If the elevator doors won't open, remain calm, ring the alarm button and wait.**

■ **Hold the handrails on escalators at all times.**

■ **Stand facing forward on escalators.**

And now I'll add two tips of my own:

■ **Do not run "up" the "down" escalators**

■ **If you are wearing long garments, make sure when stepping off that your clothing does not become caught in the mechanism.**

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAGLD

WILLT

CLISHE

RETULB

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWL ABATE SUBMIT KERNEL
 Answer: When the analyst's forecast fell short the investor realized it was — A "BULL" MARKET

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Cautionary tale of lending to kids

Dear Annie: Against the advice of friends, we gave our daughter and son-in-law the down payment on their home with strings attached: no remembering how hard it was when we bought our first home. Over the years, we loaned them thousands of dollars for what we thought were necessities, while noticing new furniture, appliances, a big-screen TV and computers appearing in their home. We finally said we could not afford to help them anymore.

Since then, my daughter and her family visit only the wealthy parents and grandparents on her husband's side. We've been told not to come over unless we can first, but when we call, we get their machine. Our messages are rarely returned.

We have three grandchildren we've barely seen since January, even though we live nearby. Our youngest grandchild does not recognize us.

Annie's Mailbox



My daughter told us our grandson's birthday party was on Sunday, and when we stopped by on Saturday to drop off his gift, we discovered the party already in progress.

I believe they feel guilty about the money we gave them and have turned their guilt against us. I don't expect you to have an answer for this. We only want to warn other parents that sometimes their friends are right.

—Nebraska Parents
Dear Nebraska: How sad for all of you, especially the children who will never know their grandparents and will believe money is the standard by which to judge people. Please do your best to maintain contact, no matter how limited. When those children grow up, they may choose to be closer to you. Be sure you're available.

Dear Annie: I'm planning a

wedding for next year, but there's a problem. I have a dear friend whom my fiancé can't stand. I would love to have her stand up in the wedding, but I'm afraid he will have a fit. If I exclude her, however, it could destroy our friendship.

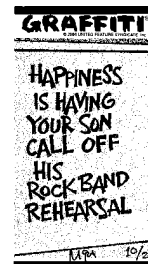
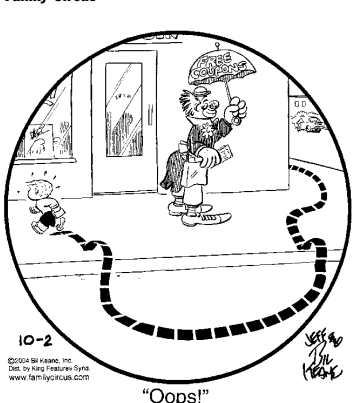
Should I sit him down and talk to him about this, or sit my friend down and let her know she can't be in the wedding?

—Desperately in Need of Advice

Dear Desperate: Guess what? Your future husband does not get to decide who your attendants should be. (And you don't get to determine his groomsmen.) If he is unable or unwilling to control his dislike for the duration of the ceremony, it does not speak well for his character or his ability to compromise — so we're hoping he will understand how important this is to you and back off.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

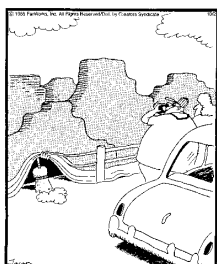
Family Circus



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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Being part of a military family I am extremely familiar with the issues that surround any relocation, whether across the street or across the globe. It is my commitment to help reduce the stress with such a move.

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Tickled pink on TV: France launches first gay channel

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

PARIS — The transgender sportscaster wears a miniskirt, the porn is gay, lesbian and bisexual, and Wonder Woman will be on every night at seven.

France's first gay television channel, PinkTV, is an eye-opener.

And that's the point. Pink's founders believe there's a ready audience — and not just among France's estimated 3.5 million gays — for TV that is different.

Pink's "a giant leap for television, a small step in high heels," said presenter Eric Guého in a promotional clip shown at the channel's unveiling Tuesday, which was feted with pink champagne.

"Guys are speaking to the French. But not all French speak to guys. But it will come."

Well, maybe. This at times surprisingly conservative and largely Roman Catholic country is still divided when it comes to homosexuality.

France has in recent years made big strides, legally recognizing gay couples and electing a gay mayor for Paris. Ho-

mophobic remarks will be punishable with prison and fines under a draft law expected to be debated in parliament before the year's end.

But the group SOS Homophobia recorded a doubling in attacks on gays last year, with 86 cases against 41 in 2002. In January, a 35-year-old gay man was severely burned by attackers who doused him with gasoline and ignited it. Sebastien Nouchet told investigators that one of his aggressors said: "You're going to die, faggot."

The government suspended Noel Mamere, a figurehead in France's green movement, from his post as a town mayor for a month after he presided over France's first gay marriage on June 5.

A court in Bordeaux in the southwest later annulled the union of Bertrand Charpentier and Stephane Chapin — a ruling the couple has vowed to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

"Marriage is great! I recommend it to everyone," Charpentier said after the July ruling. But President Jacques Chirac and his popular finance minister would be successor Nicolas Sarkozy are among those who have spoken against gay mar-



PinkTV founder and president Pascal Houzelot, seated at center, poses with the channel anchorwomen after a news conference to present the new French gay television channel in Paris on Tuesday.

AP

riage — even though a poll earlier this year showed that a majority supports such unions.

Pink says it will take part in the debate on homosexuality and other topics but does not plan to be militant. The channel launches Oct. 25 on cable and satellite. Subscription will cost money.

Britain already has two channels on the Sky Digital platform — GayDate TV, a tele-shopping channel targeting the gay community, and GayTV, a late-night soft-core porn channel. And Sweden has gay-friendly programming.

But Pink is the first nationally broadcast gay channel of its kind, said its founder and president, Pascal Houzelot. Pink is aiming for at least 180,000 subscribers. Houzelot said he expects half the audience will be in the Paris region.

"Pink is coming at the right moment," he said. "There's an evident change in mentalities. We've seen society changed. We've seen the law change. ... In France, we can clearly say that guys have gone from the era of tolerance to the era of legality, which simply means equality."



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Judge allows release of evidence in Bryant sexual assault case

By JON SARCHÉ
The Associated Press

DENVER — A judge cleared the way Wednesday for the release of documents and other evidence in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case as early as next week.

Workers in the Eagle County Sheriff's Department were poring over some of the records, removing the name of the accuser and information that would be illegal to make public, such as mental health records.

Eagle County prosecutors also have some of the material.

Prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said officials would "make every effort" to have the files available Monday.

Prosecutors dropped the felony sexual assault charge against Bryant on Sept. 1 at the request of the alleged victim. Several news organizations then requested access to the sealed files, including evidence and witness statements.

District Judge Richard Hart temporarily blocked release of the records at the request of Bryant's attorney, Pamela Mackey, who wanted time to argue that they should be permanently sealed.

She said the records contained embarrassing information and that there was no legitimate need to release them.

The temporary seal expired Tuesday and Mackey withdrew the request for a permanent seal. She said as long as prosecutors released all documents — not just those harmful to Bryant

— the public would be able to fully evaluate the decisions of prosecutors and investigators.

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert responded by saying he intends to withhold some information that could be embarrassing for Bryant, such as evidence about his sexual history.

Prosecutors and attorneys for the 20-year-old alleged victim had argued for releasing most of the details, saying the public's right to review the information outweighs Bryant's right to privacy.

The alleged victim has sued Bryant, 26, in Denver federal court, seeking unspecified damages for pain and suffering she says have occurred since she accused Bryant of rape.

Fox, who won three titles with Lakers, retires

LOS ANGELES — Rick Fox retired Thursday, ending a 13-year pro career during which he was part of three NBA championship teams with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Fox, beset by injuries last season, was traded by the Lakers to the Boston Celtics on Aug. 6. It had been expected he would retire rather than report to training camp.

The 35-year-old forward, who averaged a career-low 4.8 points last season, was bothered by foot, neck and back injuries that limited him to 38 games. He spent the summer rehabilitating, but never recovered, his spokeswoman, Staci Wolfe, said.

Fox also is dealing with upheaval in his personal life. In August, he filed for divorce from singer-actress Vanessa Williams.

Woods' round is a real pain

Battling a new back ailment, an opening 68 leaves him two behind Hamilton in \$7 million AmEx Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

THOMASTOWN, Ireland — Tiger Woods looked as if he should have withdrawn with a bad back. He played as if he was capable of winning the American Express Championship for a third straight time.

Winning on every shot and sometimes letting out a yelp at impact, Woods shot 4-under 68 at Mount Juliet on Thursday that left him in a large group two shots behind British Open champ Todd Hamilton.

"I was hoping it might loosen up a little bit, but it didn't," Woods said. "I was hoping the spasms would go away, but that didn't happen, either. I just had to get through it somehow and post a number."

Woods hurt his back last week when he fell asleep in an awkward position on his private plane, and said on the eve of the tournament he might have to withdraw.

It looked like he wasn't kidding.

He took two painkillers upon his arrival at Mount Juliet. After his tee shot on No. 4, he raised his shirt and had his caddy apply heating cream on his back. Woods did a curtsy to stick a toe in the ground and pluck his ball from the cup. And he walked the fairways with his back tilted to the side, trying to relieve the pressure.

Hamilton birdied four straight holes toward the end of his round to get to 7-under, made his only bogey on the 18th hole for a 6-under 66.

"Even if the guy is healthy or hurt, he's got a big heart," Hamilton said of Woods. "He can be hitting the ball all over the place — which he's done a lot lately — and still shoot 2, 3-, 4-under. The guy never gives up."

Hamilton had a one-shot lead over a trio of Ryder Cup players from Europe — Sergio Garcia, Luke Donald and Miguel Angel Jimenez — along with Stuart Appley, Adam Scott and Steve Flesch.

Woods was in a big group with U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, Lee Westwood, Justin Leonard and Thomas Bjorn.

Even though he owns the oldest trophy in golf, it might be his third victory this year for Hamilton to get his due. Not many knew him when he beat Ernie Els in a playoff to win the British Open, and Hamilton was left off the Ryder Cup team despite a victory earlier this year in the Honda Classic.

He looked sharp toward the end, holding birdie putts of 30 and 20 feet, hitting it to 10 feet on No. 16 and then two-putting for birdie on the 17th. He dropped his only shot on the closing hole, going from rough to rough, and having to get up-and-down from the side of the green for bogey.



Two-time defending champion Tiger Woods, who nearly withdrew, hurt his back last week when he fell asleep in an awkward position on his private plane.

Garcia had a share of the lead for most of the day, but also dropped a shot on the 18th from a greenside bunker.

The air was cool and heavy, and with overnight rain it made the course play a little longer. But the greens at Mount Juliet are among the best in golf, which helped with scoring. There were 25 players within three shots of the lead, and 52 players in the 68-man field shot par or better.

"The putter felt good the whole day," Hamilton said. "If you can't putt on these greens, you can't putt. Because the greens are spectacular."

Top-ranked Vijay Singh and five others from the top 30 in the world ranking are not playing this event.

Singh withdrew to stay with his family at his beachfront home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., that was damaged by Hurricane Jeanne. Ditto for Nick Price, who lives farther south in Florida, where a hurricane hit for the second time in a month.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson withdrew for personal reasons. Mike Weir said he was sick. John Daly cited a foot injury. And Kenny Perry said he wanted to spend time with his family.

Ex-Steeler Strzelczyk dies in crash

The Associated Press

HERKIMER, N.Y. — Justin Strzelczyk, a former player for the Pittsburgh Steelers, died Thursday in a fiery head-on collision with a tanker truck after he led state troopers on a 40-mile highway chase during morning rush hour.

State police identified Strzelczyk, 36, an offensive lineman with the Steelers for nearly a decade until the team released him in February 2000.

Troopers said Strzelczyk crashed his pickup truck into the westbound tanker carrying corrosive acid just moments after swerving around a tractor-trailer that pulled across the highway to block the east-bound lanes. Strzelczyk drove 15 miles on three tires and a run after a tire was punctured by metal spikes thrown into the road by troopers.

"It could have been so much worse. We're fortunate that only one person died," said Trooper Jim Simpson, a state police spokesman. "It looked like an airplane crash. There was quite a lot of diesel fuel spilled that was burning. The pickup was almost unrecognizable."

Strzelczyk, who lived in McCandless, Pa., near Pittsburgh, had been involved in another minor accident about an hour earlier just west of Syracuse, which started the run of events, Simpson said.

The hit-and-run occurred about 7:20 a.m. EDT



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Athletics tie Angels on Crosby's home run

The Associated Press

AL Roundup
OAKLAND, Calif. — Bobby Crosby oversaw a record-setting bid for the major league hit record, hitting a home run in the bottom of the ninth Thursday to give Oakland a 3-2 victory over Seattle and a share of first place in the AL West.

Crosby stayed alone atop the standings ended after one day as Texas beat the Angels 6-3, setting up a three-game weekend series in Oakland for the West title.

Suzuki got his 256th hit to move within one of George Sisler's record, his only hit in five at-bats. He struck out twice.

Suzuki had a run-scoring single in the third inning and might have gotten another chance to tie the record had the game gone into extra innings. But Crosby, Oakland's rookie shortstop, ensured that if Suzuki gets the record, he'll do it at home, where Seattle closes its season against Texas.

Octavio Dotel (6-2) pitched the ninth for the victory, striking out Suzuki with a 3-2 fastball.

With one out in the ninth, Crosby pounded a pitch from Scott Atchison (2-3) over the high fence in left for his 22nd homer, raising his list as he rounded the bases. His teammates mobbed him at home plate in a scene reminiscent of the A's triumphant win over the Yankees last September.

Jermaine Dye also homered for the A's, who fell out of first place Wednesday night for the first time since Aug. 5. Early in



Tampa Bay's Brook Fordyce is late with the tag as Detroit's Craig Monroe scores on Thursday afternoon.

the game, Oakland's fans cheered when the final score of Anaheim's 6-3 loss was posted on the outfield scoreboard.

Rangers 6, Angels 3: Adrian Gonzalez drove in three runs with two singles in Texas' home finale, a day after being eliminated from playoff contention.

Gonzalez, a rookie first baseman getting his first start since April, hit a two-run single that chased erratic John Lackey (14-13) in a four-run outburst in the fifth that gave Texas a 5-1 lead.

Vladimir Guerrero went 4-for-4 with two homers for the Angels (90-69), who had briefly regained sole possession of first place in the AL West by winning the first three games in Texas.

Texas (87-72) snapped a four-game losing streak, and a stretch of five losses in six days since sweeping three from the A's last week to get within two games of the division lead.

Tigers 8, Devil Rays 0: Ivan Rodriguez hit his 250th career homer and drove in his 999th run and Jeremy Bonderman threw a

four-hitter for visiting Detroit in the opener of a doubleheader.

Bonderman (11-13) struck out nine and walked one in his second complete game of the year.

Angels 6, Rangers 7 (11): Troy Glaus hit a two-run homer, helping visiting Anaheim beat Texas and move into sole possession of first place in the AL West. The Rangers were eliminated from playoff contention.

In the 11th, Darin Erstad reached on a one-out single ahead of Glaus' 18th homer, the first al-

lowed by closer Francisco Cordoba in 66 games this season.

Scott Shields (8-2) pitched two shutout innings and Troy Percival gave up a run in the 11th for his 32nd save in 37 chances.

Mariners 4, Athletics 2: Ichiro Suzuki went 1-for-3 to reach 255 hits, two shy of George Sisler's major league record, as visiting Seattle knocked Oakland out of first place in the AL West for the first time since Aug. 5.

Yankees 5-5, Twins 3-4: Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez rallied the Yankees to a victory over the AL Central champions in the opener. Jon Lieber (14-8) then picked up his fifth consecutive victory in the second game behind Hideki Matsui's second homer of the day and 30th of the season.

Devil Rays 9, Red Sox 4: Host Tampa Bay virtually ended Boston's slim chance of winning the AL East, beating Pedro Martinez (16-9), who has lost four straight in a season for the first time.

Orioles 7-4, Blue Jays 6-0: Rick Bauer (2-1), making his first start since 2002, pitched six innings of three-hit ball to help the Orioles complete a doubleheader sweep of Toronto.

In the opener, Rafael Palmeiro hit two homers and Miguel Tejada broke Palmeiro's club record for RBIs in a season with his 14th. David Newhan singled in the winning run in the ninth.

Indians 5, Royals 2: The host Royals lost their club-record 101st game as Ben Croussard homered and Cliff Bartosh (1-0) earned his first major league win.

Indians pitcher Denney shot in K.C.

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Cleveland Indians pitcher Kyle Denney shrugged off being hit in the leg by a bullet, saying Thursday he was grateful he may have been protected by white cheerleaders' boots he was wearing as part of a hazing ritual.

Denney was shot Wednesday night when a bullet pierced the team's bus as it drove to the Kansas City International Airport after a game with the Kansas City Royals.

Team trainers removed the bullet from Denney's right calf. He stayed overnight at a Kansas City hotel after being treated at a hospital and arrived in Minneapolis a few hours after his teammates for a season-ending series with the Twins that begins Friday.

"As soon as the skin heals, it should be fine," Denney said during a news conference. He wore a suit and walked without a noticeable limp.

As part of a rookie hazing ritual, Denney was wearing a USC cheerleader's outfit, including the high white boots, on the trip to the airport.

Team trainers said the boots may have saved Kyle from further injury," team spokesman Bart Swain said.

An Oklahoma native, Denney

MLB briefs

said his teammates chose the outfit because the Sooners are ranked second behind USC in the AP's college football poll.

"I've never been so glad to have a USC thing on," he said.

Swain said the shot was fired into the side of one of the Indians' two buses while it was on a ramp between Interstate 435 and I-70. Outfielder Ryan Ludwick was hit by debris when the bullet entered the bus.

"At first, there was a little bit of panic," Swain said. "Once we realized Kyle was OK, fears were subsided."

Police said Thursday they have no suspects in the case.

Denney, 27, called up Sept. 14 from Buffalo of the International League, is 1-2 with a 9.56 ERA in four starts with Cleveland. He beat Kansas City 8-3 on Sept. 19 for his first major league victory.

Trial on ownership of Bobby 700th homer ball delayed

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge delayed until Friday a hearing on who is the rightful owner of Barry Bonds' 700th home run ball, giving lawyers on both sides time to make their cases.

Steve Williams, who ended up

with the ball during a melee in the left-center field bleachers on Sept. 17, promised San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Ronald Quidachay that he would not sell the ball before Quidachay rules on ownership. The president of a Chicago-based auction company estimated the ball's value as "six figures."

Halting the sale of the ball allows a lawsuit brought by Timmy Murphy, who claims Williams stole the ball from him, to proceed. If the judge ultimately declines to block the ball from being auctioned, Williams likely would be able to sell it immediately and the case would be over.


The case took another twist on Thursday when, minutes before the hearing, another man, Alex Patino, said that he was the rightful owner of the ball and is also planning on suing Williams.

Diamondbacks add Fassero

PHOENIX — The Arizona Diamondbacks signed left-hander Jeff Fassero on Wednesday with four games left in the season.

The Colorado Rockies released Fassero, 42, on Friday.

Fassero had a 3-5 record and 6.29 ERA in 12 starts with the Rockies. He also worked 28 games in relief, going 0-3 with a 4.25 ERA.



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RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Evernham up to speed as car owner

Ex-crew chief a quick study in business side of NASCAR

BY DICK BRINSTER
The Associated Press

Ray Evernham was a pioneer among NASCAR's numbers-crunching crew chiefs. These days, the data he most often examines as a car owner has nothing to do with horsepower and downforce.

What he cares about is getting his car on television.

"Our Joyce Julius numbers are tripled what they were last year," said Evernham, referring to a firm that calculates exposures for corporate sponsors. "We've got more TV coverage. It's been a really good year for us so far."

Each time the camera focuses on Jeremy Mayfield or Casey Kahne, the sponsorship of Dodge is easily visible on the side of the cars.

And that's a winning ticket for Evernham, an ex-driver who nurtured Jeff Gordon from novice to greatness.

The former short-track racer seems very much at home in his new environment of dealing with sponsors, the lifeblood of auto racing.

"I think they're [sponsors] happy we made it," Evernham said after Mayfield qualified in the elite field of 10 drivers seeking the Nextel Cup championship. The third race in the 10-race countdown is Sunday at Talladega Superspeedway.

ga Superspeedway.

"We had two cars that had a legitimate shot at making it," he added.

That's important. To keep lucrative backing upward of \$20 million for a top team, success must come on the track. It has this year at Evernham Motorsports, but the owner's attention is strictly business. No more crunching Cup standings numbers.

"I've been looking more at my budget numbers, not the computer," he said. "That's my job now."

It's been made easier by the crew of Mayfield's crew chiefs, Kenny Francis and Tommy Baldwin Jr., who calls the shots for impressive rookie Kahne.

Still, the big picture is building a team and recognizing talent. Mayfield says it's also about

inspirational leadership, something he learned last year when Evernham stuck with him through some difficult times on the track.

"We got knocked down and we got chewed up and spit out, booted off the stage," Mayfield said. "But we came right back."

He made the 10-top chase by winning three weeks ago in Richmond, Va. Kahne narrowly missed, but has five second-place finishes and 10 top-fives — a figure matching that of seven-time champion Dale Earnhardt and exceeded only twice by rookies in Cup history.



NASCAR team owner Ray Evernham, second from right, talks with his crew before the start of the MBNA America 400 at the Dover International Speedway in Dover, Del., on Sunday. Evernham, who owns three Cup titles as Jeff Gordon's crew chief, now owns a two-car team that features Jeremy Mayfield and Casey Kahne.

Evernham takes little credit. "I just tell them, 'Great job,'" he said.

That's what Dodge thought Evernham was doing when the automaker chose him as point man for its return in 2001 after a 16-year absence from NASCAR's top division. Evernham guided Gordon to three of his four titles and the first 47 of his 69 career victories, then left powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports to start his own operation.

With Mayfield among the title chasers and Kahne the top rookie on the circuit, Evernham is satisfied with the progress of his cars.

"It's not like we are a 20-year team," he said. "We're a four-year team with one guy that's a rookie who had never seen some of these places in a Cup car."

But Evernham believes the growth of his operation into one of the best in NASCAR is not a certainty simply because of one good year. He looks to the future, with expansion on his mind.

"We've definitely going to have one full-time Busch car and were probably going to have a part-time Busch car," he said. "If we're going to get to where we need to be, we've got to be work-

ing on driver development."

He'll try to follow the examples of car owners Jack Roush and Rick Hendrick, whose huge operations extended to the lower levels of NASCAR.

"Roush has probably done the best job at it, and Rick has done a good job," Evernham said. "We need to get right in there."

He wants a solid program in place to develop future Cup drivers and sees no shortage of candidates.

"There are a lot of hungry drivers out there, and we're getting calls from all over the country," Evernham said.

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 29: EA Sports 500, 3 a.m. Monday, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Ryan Newman easily won the MBNA America 400 at Dover International Speedway, while four-time series champion Jeff Gordon took the points lead with his third-place finish.

Last year: Michael Waltrip broke Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s streak at Talladega Superspeedway, sweeping high off the final turn and denying his teammate a fifth straight victory at the track by winning the EA Sports 500.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Dale Earnhardt Jr. Cars-
hand Jr. saw his life
NASCAR's ac-
re-when he wrecked
strict-to-pole
ing, king, and
a Dover. Karneth
needs a string of
could put him
back on top in
the race for the
Nexel Cup.
champion.

Jeff Gordon won
the 400 at Talladega
on April 25, a
place — and a
of Kurt Busch,
who lost a series
led after finishing
fifth at Dover. —
Gordon has four top-10
finishes. — Dale Jarrett re-
corded only his fifth
top-five finish in the
last 28 races after a
fourth-place showing
at Dover. — The cur-
rent race is the 10th
of the season, and race
speeds were set at Talladega.

POINTS RACE

After 28 of 36 races

1. Jeff Gordon 5,371
2. Kurt Busch 5,370
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 5,363
4. Jimmie Johnson 5,314
4. Mark Martin 5,314
6. Elliott Sessler 5,275
7. Matt Kenseth 5,272
8. Ryan Newman 5,264
9. Tony Stewart 5,236
10. Jeremy Mayfield 5,214
11. Jamie McMurray 5,173
12. Kevin Harvick 5,174
13. Bobby Labonte 3,367
14. Casey Kahne 3,360
15. Dale Jarrett 3,342
16. Michael Waltrip 3,066
17. Rusty Wallace 3,020
18. Sterling Marlin 2,997
19. Greg Biffle 2,958
20. Casey Mears 2,934

BUSCH SERIES

Last race: Points leader Martin Truex Jr. took the lead with 12 laps to go and drove to an easy victory in the Stacker 200 at Dover International Speedway. It was Truex's fifth win of the year, tying him with rookie Kyle Busch and Greg Biffle for the most on the circuit.

Next race: Mark Goodens 300, Oct. 3, Kansas City, Mo.

INDY RACING

This week: Toyota Indy 400 at Fontana, Calif. (Tape-delayed, 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, *ESPN Sports*)
Last race: Adrian Fernandez won his first race in a month by taking the Delphi Indy 300 in Joliet, Ill., on Sept. 12. Indy 100 winner Buddy Rice was involved in a frightening crash, but was unharmed despite skidding upside down along the track.

Next year: Sam Hornish Jr. won the fastest open-wheel race in history, averaging 131 mph, in the Toyota Indy 400. Hornish also took the inaugural race in 2002.

Next race: Chevy 500, Oct. 17, Fort Worth, Texas.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: American Racing Wheels 200 at Fontana, Calif. (Tape-delayed, 4 p.m. Tuesday, *AFN Sports*).

Last race: Shane Hmiel nipped veteran Todd Bodine heading into the final lap to win the Las Vegas 350. It was Hmiel's first career truck victory.

Last year: Ted Musgrave overtook Brendan Gaughan with nine laps remaining and won the American Racing Wheels 200 for his third straight victory at California Speedway. Musgrave started at the back of the field after an engine change, but still set a track record for fastest winning speed at 145.058 mph.

Next race: Silverado 350K, Oct. 16, Fort Worth, Texas.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais held off Newman-Haas teammate Bruno Junqueira in a side-by-side battle to win the Las Vegas 400 for his sixth victory of 2004. Bourdais won by 0.066 seconds, the sixth-closest finish since 1979.

Next race: Oct. 24, Surfer's Paradise, Australia.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Rubens Barrichello won his second straight race at the inaugural China's Grand Prix series champion Michael Schumacher finished 12th, his worst showing in a race since 1999.

Next race: Japanese Grand Prix, Oct. 10, Suzuka.

SPORTS



Indians pitcher Denney shot in leg
when bullet pierces team bus
in Kansas City, Page 36

On deck: Plenty of work

Luring Expos to Washington only first step to Opening Day

By JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The celebration can't last long in the nation's capital. The real work is just beginning now that the Montreal Expos are on the way.

The city government must race against time to approve funding for a new stadium. RFK Stadium must be renovated in time for Opening Day in April. A team nickname needs to be chosen.

Major League Baseball has some unfinished business, too. The other team owners must approve the move when they meet in November.

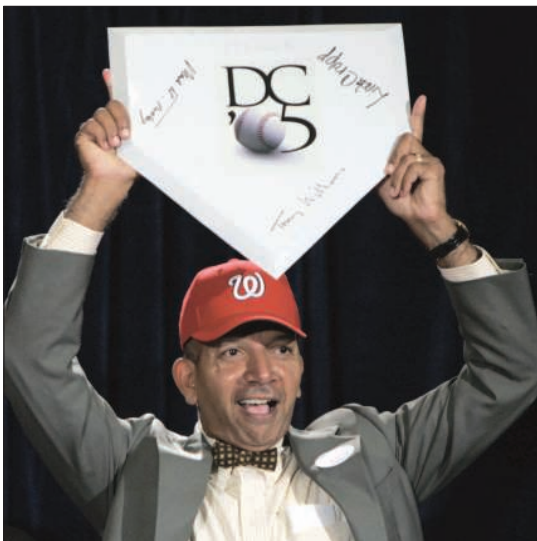
A buyer has to be found for the relocated team. A deal must be completed that appeases Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos.

"We finally have taken the first step," commissioner Bud Selig said Wednesday, shortly after announcing the Expos' move to Washington. "And I want to say, obviously, there's a lot of work to be done."

For a day, at least, there was unbridled jubilation among officials who had worked diligently to end the city's 33-year drought of Major League Baseball. Mayor Anthony Williams drew cheers as he donned a Washington Senators cap at a news conference at the City Museum.

"After 30 years of waiting and waiting and waiting," Williams said, "and lots of hard work and more than a few prayers, there will be baseball in Washington in 2005."

The team will play at RFK for three seasons while a new ballpark is built along the Anacostia River, south of the Capitol. It's a \$440 million package that requires approval by the city council.



Top, Washington Mayor Anthony Williams celebrates Wednesday after he announced that the Montreal Expos will be moved to Washington for the 2005 baseball season. Right, Montreal Expos first baseman Brad Wilkerson signs autographs before the team's final home game against the Florida Marlins in Montreal on Wednesday. The Expos, Canada's first major league team, ended their 35 years in Montreal with a 9-1 loss to Florida.



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